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LD101400 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Gaza Disturbances—"Serious disturbances" erupted in the Gaza Strip 10 December, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that five wounded people were hospitalized, three of them hit by gunfire from an IDF patrol that was attacked by Molotov cocktails. Riots had broken out in a Gaza refugee camp the previous day after the killing of a resident by IDF fire and the wounding of 16 others, some of them seriously, according to IDF radio. The IDF southern commander linked the disturbances with the recent expulsion of a PLO activist from the camp and with reaction to an 8 December traffic accident in which four residents were killed and seven injured. Rumors had spread in the camp that these casualties were deliberately inflicted, not accidental, he noted.

Israel and Syria—Romanian sources cited by Kuwait's AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM stated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has delivered a "strongly-worded" warning to Israel that if the latter attacks any Syrian targets, Syria will retaliate decisively and will not hesitate to wage all-out war. The warning, which was conveyed in a message to the Israelis from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, implied that Syria is ready to use "sophisticated strategic weapons never used before," the sources said.

However, Israel's Air Force commander warned the Syrians in an interview reported by HA'ARETZ that if they dare to use surface-to-surface missiles against Israel, the latter's response will be "10 times harsher" than its retaliation for a Syrian missile strike in the 1973 war. In an interview with Jerusalem television, the IDF chief of staff said the signing of the INF agreement has reduced the likelihood that Syria will receive SS-23's from the USSR, but he warned that the Arab countries are trying to develop their own medium-range missiles.

Regarding Israeli military intentions in Lebanon, Beirut radio carried reports warning of an impending Israeli operation in the area east of Sidon.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Raids—The Iraqi Air Force hit a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 10 December, a military spokesman announced in a statement to INA, noting that this followed a raid on a similar target the previous night. Iraqi planes also raided a sugar factory in Khaneh, Iraq's term for the Iranian border town of Piran Shahr, according to a 9 December communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. IRNA announced that eight civilians were killed or wounded in a "savage" attack on a suburb of Piran Shahr.

Arms Procurement—A spokesman for the French company Dassault confirmed that negotiations are taking place with Iraq on providing it with "several" Mirage aircraft, but he stressed that no firm decision has been made yet, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The Dassault statement followed a French press report about a possible agreement to supply Iraq with 12 Mirage F-1 aircraft.

As for Iran's efforts to manufacture its own military equipment, the official in charge of IRGC military industries told Tehran radio that the IRGC is currently producing antitank missiles, drones, boats, mortars, and multibarrel rocket launchers. Surface-to-surface missiles and armored vehicles are being designed, he said, while medium-range radars and piloted military aircraft are reaching the testing stage.

Libyan View—Priority should go to putting out the flames of the conflict rather than identifying the party that started it, Libya's permanent Arab League representative stated in an interview with the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD cited by KUNA. The agency viewed this as a call for Iran to drop its demand for the indentification of the aggressor as a precondition for ending the war.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni gave two copies of his new will to Iranian leaders during a 10 December ceremony at his residence, instructing them to hand the copies over to the Assembly of Experts and to the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza for sealing and safekeeping, IRNA reported. Khomeyni's "politico-divine last will" is a revised version of one he made 5 years ago, the agency said. After the ceremony, Khomeyni discussed "various problems facing the country" in talks with Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, Tehran radio noted.

Egypt

Agreement With USSR—An economic cooperation protocol was signed in Cairo by officials of the Egyptian and Soviet Chambers of Commerce, MENA reported.

Anti-Israeli Polemic—An AL-JUMHURIYAH columnist accused Israel of elevating terrorism to "state policy" and of choosing its leaders from among those "terrorists and war criminals" with the best records for killing Arabs. "New Nazis are in power in Israel," the columnist charged, and he urged the Arabs not to campaign against each other at the expense of forgetting their "first enemy in the region."

Sudan

The Qaysan area was shelled by "outlaws from Ethiopian territory," Omdurman radio reported, adding that the Sudanese Armed Forces responded with "concentrated shelling" of the southern Blue Nile area. According to a military spokesman cited by KUNA, Sudanese warplanes carried out air strikes on targets in the Kurmuk area, inflicting "heavy casualties," and ground forces engaged fleeing rebels. The agency also cited reports that government forces set fire to a rebel camp south of Wau.

Tunisia

Following an appeal to the Supreme Court of Justice, former Interior Minister Driss Guiga received a 5-year suspended sentence and other penalties, TAP reported. The former official had been convicted of "high treason" in January 1984 for which he was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Afghanistan

Pursuant to the presidential amnesty decree, 515 prisoners were recently released, including 260 from the Pol-e Charkhi central prison, 196 from Balkh prison, and 56 from Farah prison, Kabul radio announced.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat Pledges Defense of Kuwait

JN100728 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed the Palestinian forces' readiness to defend and protect Kuwait against any potential aggression from any direction. Speaking at a ceremony in the Kuwaiti capital honoring Kuwaiti figures who had backed the Fatah movement since its establishment in 1964, 'Arafat also affirmed that he has placed at the disposal of the amir of Kuwait the Palestinian forces stationed in Sudan, Algeria, the YAR, and the PDRY.

In another development, informed Palestinian sources have said that after his present visit to Kuwait, Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo. He was preceded there 2 days ago by a PLO delegation that includes three members of the Executive Committee. It is noteworthy here that 'Arafat has not visited Egypt for months. The visit of the aforementioned Palestinian delegation follows the recent Egyptian decision to permit the reopening of PLO offices in Cairo.

Rejects Rabin Proposal

JN100822 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has announced that 3 months ago he received a message from Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and that he had rejected a proposal contained in the message. The proposal called for a cease-fire between the Israeli and Palestinian sides in accordance with an agreement arranged by an envoy of U.S. President Reagan in the summer of 1981. Addressing a ceremony held by the PLO in Kuwait last night, 'Arafat said: I rejected the proposal because Israel was the first party to violate the 1981 agreement.

'Arafat also reported that Iran is currently preparing to launch a large offensive northeast of Basra. He expected that this offensive would occur next week. He said: Iran has massed approximately 350,000 soldiers to launch such an offensive. The Palestinian leader emphasized the Iraqi forces' ability to repulse any future Iranian aggression.

The PLO chairman asserted that the Palestinian forces will support Kuwait in case it is subjected to any outside aggression. Meanwhile, he lauded the stand of Kuwait—amir, government, and people—toward the Palestinian question. The Palestinian leader said that during his recent meeting with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, he had stressed that all Palestinians, as well as the PLO, support Kuwait against Iranian attacks and that all the Palestinian forces stationed in Algeria, Sudan, the YAR, the PDRY, and Iraq will be placed at Kuwait's disposal to defend it at any time.

Salah Khalaf on 'New Chapter' With Syria

PM091151 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Preparations in Damascus To Release 1,700 Palestinian Detainees"]

[Text] London—In the context of the earnest endeavors to open a new chapter in relations between Damascus and the PLO, Palestinian sources confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that around 1,700 Palestinian detainees in Damascus are ready to be released. The relaxation became evident following a decision by the Syrian authorities to allow relatives of the detainees to visit them. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that among those who have been allowed visits by relatives and who are now treated better than before are Fatah members.

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) confirmed, during a telephone conversation with him in Tunis, that the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue is still continuing and he expressed hope that there will be results soon. Salah Khalaf said "some people who have been voicing doubts concerning the start of the dialogue and the continuation of its progress will be surprised by the news which will break soon."

Abu Iyad added that "those people do not want relations between Syria and the PLO to return to normal. However, they ought to know at the same time that a new chapter will be opening in the very near future."

Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], leader of the Fatah dissidents, had stated that Damascus has recently released around 65 Palestinians detained in Syria since 1983—thanks to his intervention. Abu Musa said in an AFP interview that over 100 requests for release have been submitted and that so far around 65 requests have been granted—contrary to information which points to the release of 150 people.

PLO Delegation To Arrive in Amman 15 Dec

JN091543 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Amman have stated that a Palestinian delegation under PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas will arrive in Amman next Tuesday for talks with Jordanian officials on ways to resume the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue.

AL-QUDS Views Joint Jordan-PLO Delegation

JN091511 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic
7 Dec 87 p 3

[Article: "Why the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Delegation?"]

[Text] Why the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation? It is important to consider this question thoroughly and to probe its legal and political implications at this very time when the 'Arafat leadership has begun to raise empty, Byzantine arguments on the subject. Their arguments reflect the extent of the fumbling, cloudy vision and the casual, whimsical attitude of the 'Arafat leadership over the last 2 decades. Since the Fes summit endorsed the international conference as a comprehensive framework to attain peace in the region, the question has been one of the manner of Palestinian representation.

In the beginning, Yasir 'Arafat supported the formation of an independent Palestinian delegation on an equal footing with the other parties to the dispute. Later 'Arafat changed his mind when he tried to coordinate with Jordan. He called for the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in accordance with the Fes summit's endorsement of the confederation formula between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

When he dissociated himself from Jordan, he blotted out his signature before the ink dried. He then proposed the formation of a Palestinian delegation within an Arab delegation or within the Arab League delegation to the international conference.

After the extraordinary Amman summit, 'Arafat tried to explain that the Arab summit resolutions had approved the convocation of the international conference in the presence of the PLO, on an equal footing, and in accordance with his changing moods. His henchmen said that the expression "on an equal footing" means that the independent Palestinian delegation is equal to all parties attending the international conference. Which one are we going to believe: the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the joint Palestinian-Arab delegation, or the independent Palestinian delegation?

This is one of the phenomena reflecting the extent of the 'Arafat leadership's fumbling, which has impeded the Palestinian national march, delayed the attainment of our people's national goals and demands, and reflected the 'Arafat leadership's bad reputation and lack of international credibility. This fumbling could be one of the main reasons for the disruption of the international Middle East peace conference. This confirms that 'Arafat is not interested in an international conference; otherwise, what do his direct contacts with the enemy leaders—through Knesset member Beton and the Zionist Rakah Party—mean? Does this not mean a full violation of Arab unanimity, which adopts the international conference formula, and replacing that with direct negotiations?

Going back to our question at the beginning of why a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, we say: The simplest Palestinian citizen living inside or outside the occupied homeland approves the formula of a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation because it is based on the following points:

1. This proposal is in harmony both in form and essence with the pan-Arab unionist depth of the Palestinian revolution. Whether the solution will come through peace or war, it must stem from a comprehensive pan-Arab framework provided it represents the Palestinians, contains a pioneering role, does not cancel their national identity, and does not impose on them guardianship, obsequiousness, or containment.

2. This pan-Arab depth is embodied in the picture of the unionist situation existing between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples over the past 40 years. No one can deny this fact except an infidel, arrogant, rotten regional separatist or a denier of the historical and geographical facts linking Palestine and Jordan. Throughout history, Jordan has represented the main gate for the liberation of Palestine. It is the geographic and human depth of Palestine. Jordan has assumed the responsibility of the Palestinian cause for the past 40 years. It is still shouldering this responsibility faithfully and through sincere pan-Arab commitment.

3. Since this proposal (for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation) is based on Arab legitimacy, the Fes summit endorsed the confederation between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. This endorsement is based on the endorsement of the formula of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for an international peace conference.

4. This formula is more officially and legally attainable than the Arab formula since Jordan contributes to pan-Arab responsibilities.

5. This formula exploits Jordanian political leverage and weight on Arab and international levels in favor of the Palestinian question.

Undoubtedly, Jordan launched the idea of an international conference. It also disseminated the idea on the international level to the point that this idea acquired international unanimity. This is attributed to Jordan's weight and leverage in the international arena.

For these reasons, Fatah and the PLO's Corrective Movement called for a confederation in the first place and for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the second. The term "on an equal footing"—dealing with PLO participation in an international conference, which

was reported by the Amman extraordinary summit resolutions—is an indication of the formula of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It does not mean an independent Palestinian delegation for the reasons mentioned above.

As for 'Arafat's contradictions, fumblings, and moods, they represent his sick mentality. They neither commit the Palestinian people nor concern them in any way. Our people have discarded him. He has fallen into the ash heap of history, as leaves fall in autumn. The turn of the popular leadership has come to replace individualism and the casual whimsical attitude.

OPEC Affairs

UAE Minister Makes Statement on Production

JN071909 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 7 Dec (WAKH)—UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has stated that he expects the OPEC ministers to increase the production ceiling for the 13 OPEC members from its current rate of 16.6 million barrels a day, if they can ensure that demand for OPEC oil will be high next year.

After arriving in Vienna this evening, Dr al-'Utaybah said that any change in the production ceiling will largely depend on the balance between supply and demand in world markets, as well as OPEC's share in this balance. He expected the conference, which will open in Vienna on Wednesday, to be good and useful. This is in contrast to statements by a number of ministers and observers who have expressed fears that the conference will be difficult and lengthy in view of the current slump in world oil markets.

President Notes Success in Maintaining Price

LD081831 Vienna OPECNA in English 1645 GMT 8 Dec 87

[text] Vienna, 8 Dec. 87 (OPECNA)—OPEC has succeeded in sustaining the 18 dollar reference price set by it in December last year, OPEC conference president Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman declared on arrival here today. He told OPECNA in an interview that in spite of the oversupply in the market, the reference price had held, adding 'the oil market situation is not as bad as is being portrayed.' The OPEC president, also Nigerian minister of petroleum resources, pointed out that in spite of the fact that the OPEC meeting last June had indicated the possibility of an extraordinary meeting, it had not been found necessary to call one.

On the meeting opening here Wednesday, Lukman said there were three areas of consensus which must be borne in mind:—a general agreement to avoid a price collapse,—a general understanding of the need for 'good price discipline', and—a general acceptance of the need for production management. He stated that these were some of the areas which meant a 'plus for OPEC' and which could be further pursued at the full ministerial meeting. On the prospects for 1988, the OPEC president said the Wednesday meeting could not afford 'not to have an agreement'. He said the benefits of 1987 should not be lost, while the experience of 1986 should not be repeated.

Lukman is expected to chair a meeting of the committee on quota compliance this evening to finalize a report on the visits made to the 13 member countries between October and December. He is also expected to host later today a meeting of the OPEC committee on price evolution comprising Nigeria, Indonesia, Venezuela, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

Iranian Minister 'Optimistic' About Meeting

LD081833 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 8, IRNA—An Iranian delegation headed by Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh arrived here Tuesday to participate in the 82nd meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), scheduled to start Wednesday. The delegation was greeted at Vienna airport by Iranian Ambassador to Austria Hoseyn Negrekar-Shirazi and a number of OPEC Secretariat officials.

In a brief interview with reporters, Aqazadeh said that he was optimistic towards the outcome of the OPEC meet-[ing]. He said that Iran's just position is to support the increase in oil price by at least two dollars per barrel in order to compensate for the devaluation of the U.S. dollar.

Stresses Political Aspects

LD091058 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 9, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here for the 82nd meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) conferred with the UAE's minister of petroleum and mineral resources Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah here Tuesday. In the meeting the two officials reviewed bilateral relations, regional and oil issues including production quotas and price ceilings. At the end of their meeting Aqazadeh told reporters that OPEC's 82nd session will not be very smooth. He said the political magnitude of the session will certainly prevail over its economic aspects.

Threatens To Reject Price

LD091608 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 9, IRNA—Oil ministers of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) opened their 82nd meeting here Wednesday to discuss oil price increase by two dollars. Before

the opening session, Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh made it clear that Iran will not sign any agreement that does not envisage an oil price increase from 18 to 20 dollars per barrel, or else Iran will feel free to determine its own production quota. Aqazadeh, noting that Iran's present oil production is well within its assigned quota, blasted certain Arab countries for politicizing the OPEC meet[ing].

The political atmosphere which seems likely to dominate this session, he said, has been heating up ever since the U.S. inspired Amman Arab summit. Aqazadeh stressed that Iran will never accept parity of oil production quota with Iraq.

Meets Nigerian, Venezuelan Ministers

LD100642 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 10, IRNA—Oil ministers of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) convened here for OPEC's 82nd session Wednesday. Meanwhile the Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh met privately with Oil Minister of Venezuela Arturo Hernandez Grisanti and of Nigeria Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman. Aqazadeh told IRNA after the meetings that they had discussed production ceiling, the oil price and Iraq's production quota. He quoted Grisanti as having stressed that the existing problems must be solved through collective cooperation of OPEC members.

Aqazadeh added that efforts were being made to increase Iraq's quota, however, the move will not be supported by all members. In these private meetings, he added, Iran stressed the need for increasing oil price by two dollars in order to compensate for the plunge in the value of dollar and inflation, he added.

Conference Opens; Lukman Reads Statement

LD091446 Kuwait KUNA in English 1344 GMT 09 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, Dec 9 (KUNA)—OPEC conference President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman read a six-page statement to media representatives at the OPEC secretariat after the ministers took a break of the initial one-hour session Wednesday. President Lukman pointed out that oil companies in their turn have a responsibility for stabilizing the market especially in those countries where critical decisions are taken at company—rather than national—level. "These companies want stability on the one hand and the freedom to 'play' the market on the other", President Lukman said. But they cannot have both in an industry hyper-sensitive to even the slightest rumor', he added. [quotation mark as received]

The OPEC president pleaded that "as we enter the conference we must do so in a spirit of cautious optimism". "On balance, 1987 has been a successful year for our organization. The traumas of 1986 are behind us", he told press representatives. "Yet many of the underlying weaknesses in the market remain. Other economic problems are queing up behind them", he said. "The most notable of problems are the repercussions of the stock market collapse and the commencing decline in the value of the U.S. dollar. Over the past two years we have seen three of the world's leading economic indicators collapse: oil prices, the dollar and the international stock market," he said.

"Some analysts believe this may herald the onset of a global recession while others strike a less pessimistic note for the coming year. However, we must be prepared for any eventuality," he pointed out. "We have shown time and again that we can cope with crises and now we must reach a realistic agreement which can carry us through from the turbulent 1980s into a more stable era", Alhaji Lukman said.

The 82nd meeting of the ministerial conference of OPEC re-elected Nigerian minister of energy and mines, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman to be OPEC conference president for this meeting. Lukman was initially elected president during the conference in Brioni (Yugoslavia) in June of 1986 and was re-elected at subsequent meetings in Geneva in October and December of 1986 and in Vienna last June.

Ministers Begin Closed Session

LD101026 Vienna OPECNA in English 0947 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Vienna, 10 Dec. 87 (OPECNA)—OPEC oil ministers this morning went into their first closed session since the 82nd meeting opened Wednesday. They are expected to embark on a detailed discussion of reports already presented to them by ministerial committees and technical experts. At Wednesday's session, three ministerial committees—on quota compliance, price evolutions and market monitoring—presented their reports. The ministers also received the reports of the OPEC economic commission board and the group of marketing experts.

This morning's session is expected to focus on a detailed analysis of the current world oil market situation and the outlook for 1988. Administrative matters were also dealt with by the ministers Wednesday. Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria was re-elected president of the conference, while Dr Fernando Santos-Alvite of Ecuador was elected alternate president. Ben Osuno of Nigeria will be chairman and 'Abd-Allah Salat of Qatar alternate chairman of the OPEC board of Governors for 1988.

Algeria

President Cables Reagan, Gorbachev on Treaty

LD092133 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Reagan and Gorbachev have signed the INF treaty. This evoked various reactions in a number of capitals. These have been exemplified by the two messages Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the [FLN] party, sent to Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

In his message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, President Chadli Bendjedid hailed the signing of the INF treaty and described it as a historic achievement for the international community, particularly for the Nonaligned Movement. The president expressed the hope that this will be the first step in the disarmament process, one that will be followed by more important steps in accordance with the aspirations of the world's peoples for security and peace.

In his message to Mikhail Gorbachev, the president said: Your personal efforts have led to this treaty on the removal of intermediate missiles. This is the first treaty of its kind in history. The Nonaligned Movement, of which my country is a member, views this as a first step in disarmament. Our countries hope to see disarmament become comprehensive and total, as well as a foundation for establishing a system based upon real and common security. This would then enable mankind to use its resources for development.

Assembly Approves 4 Joint Libyan Companies

LD092110 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The National People's Assembly this morning endorsed four bills concerning the establishment of joint Algerian-Libyan companies. Here is Rabah Chaibi with further details:

[Begin recording] The bills that were approved concern the organization of four joint Algerian-Libyan companies: one for oil prospecting and production, one for geophysics, one specializing in drilling artesian wells, and one specializing in building and construction. During his introduction of the first three projects, Mohamed Rouighi [minister of hydraulics, environment, and forests] stated that they are the first benefits of the talks between the two countries. He added that these firms are also considered to be the starting point for real Algerian-Libyan cooperation as well as true cooperation at the level of the Greater Maghreb.

The government representative then introduced the first three mixed companies. He noted that the first two would particularly be concerned with mining prospects in the two countries, as well as with the possibility of extending the agreement to include other states. Capital will be supplied on a 50-50 basis. The headquarters of the company for oil exploration and production will be in Algeria, while the geophysics concern will be headquartered in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The company based in Algeria will be run and organized in accordance with Algerian trade laws, while the enterprise based in Libya will be organized and operated according to Libyan law. The two operations will also benefit from the same fiscal exemptions and facilities enjoyed by national enterprises in the two countries.

As for the third joint company specializing in drilling wells, the government representative noted that its creation also comes under the banner of true Arab cooperation. The Algerian and Libyan Governments believe it is necessary to reinforce economic cooperation, particularly in developing agricultural irrigation, which is increasingly becoming one of the prime objectives of this cooperation. This company is headquartered in Tripoli, in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and will also have to establish a branch or an office in Algeria. Its has $10 million in capital, which is divided into 100,000 shares, each of which is worth $100. Each government owns 50 percent of the capital of the enterprise.

The fourth company, which specializes in building and construction, was introduced by government representative Abdelmalek Nourani, minister of regional development, urbanism, and construction. Its headquarters will be located in Tripoli, in the Jamahiriyah, for a 25-year period. Its capital totals $4 million.

The spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Committee stated in his report that these projects are an expression of the political will that the leaderships of the two sisterly countries agreed upon to lay an appropriate foundation for economic integration and political harmony. This is with a view to creating the proper atmosphere for constructing the Maghreb. These projects, he added, conform to Article 158 of the national Constitution. [end recording]

Burkina Faso Defense Minister Begins Visit

Arrives 7 Dec

LD072140 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani, the Burkina Faso minister of popular defense and security, arrived in Algiers at noon today. The Burkinabe official, who was welcomed by Mr Bachir Rouis, alternate member of the Political Bureau and minister of information, stated that he had a message for President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, addressed to him by President Blaise Compaore.

Meets With Bendjedid

LD091617 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Algiers, December 9 (APS)—Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani, defense and security minister of Burkina Faso, declared, following the audience granted to him by President Bendedid, that the message of President Blaise Compaore to the president of the Republic is centered on relations between Algeria and Burkina Faso. Lingani stressed the necessity to relaunch this cooperation following the new situation prevailing since 15 October in Burkina Faso.

Talks With Messaadia

LD092140 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the official in charge of the FLN Permanent Secretariat, today discussed with the Burkinabe defense and security minister the organizational structures for building modern societies and reviewed with him bilateral relations and ways to bolster them.

Niger Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

LD081825 Algiers APS in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Algiers, 8 Dec (APS)—Mahamat Sani Bako, Niger's foreign affairs and cooperation minister, arrived in Algiers today bearing a message for President Chadli Bendjedid from Lieutenant Colonel Ali Saibou, chairman of Niger's Supreme Military Council. He was met at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Smail Hamdani, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Niger's ambassador to Algiers.

Received by Bendjedid

LD090021 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and party secretary general, received at the Presidency today Sani Bako, Niger minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. During this audience which was held in the presence of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs minister, and the Algerian ambassador to Niger, Sani Bako handed the president a message from Colonel Ali Saibou, chairman of the Military Council for National Salvation. [passage omitted]

Chad

Libyan Column Said Moving Toward Sudan Border

AB091940 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1855 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since last Monday [7 December], a sizable column made up of North Yemenis and Palestinians, in conjunction with Libyan elements, has been moving toward the Chadian border from (?Mildik) in Darfur Province. After two abortive attempts to attack our country, the Libyan regime has sent another expeditionary corps to that region for the same purpose; that is, to destabilize and annex northern Chad. Considering the size of Darfur Province, this column, which is strongly armed and has numerous vehicles, could not move about so freely without having benefited from a certain complicity on the part of the Sudanese regime of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

In any event, if this horde of mercenaries happens to enter Chadian territory, the FANT will not hesitate to exercise their legitimate right of pursuit, as the Chadian Government has already made known. Due to his partisan attitude, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has exposed the peaceful inhabitants of Darfur Province to a war that does not concern them. Indeed, these inhabitants found a response to the presence of the Islamic Legion in that region during the fighting which took place last week and claimed the lives of four mercenaries. The FANT, who are aware of the close links between the inhabitants living on both sides of the Chad-Sudan border, will know how to evaluate this situation appropriately. They will also know how to properly stop all Libyan attacks, no matter from where they originate.

Egypt

Palestinian Delegation Continues Visit

Officials Comment on Talks

NC091530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—During a meeting today, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, discussed bilateral ties and ways to promote them. They also discussed developments pertaining to the Palestinian issue in the Arab and international arenas, the possibility of convening an international conference for peace, and the drawing up of a formula to continue consultations and the coordination of their positions to serve the interests of the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples and the Arab nation.

Mahmud 'Abbas, the head of the Palestinian delegation, said that he had conveyed to 'Abd al-Majid the appreciation of the Palestinian leadership and people for Egypt's firm stand and continued support for the Palestinian cause and its insistance on PLO participation in any efforts to settle the Palestinian issue.

On his part, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that today's meeting had included a review of developments in the Arab world in the wake of the recent Amman summit, with emphasis given to the Palestinian issue.

MENA has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Cairo before the end of December for talks with a number of senior state officials on developments regarding the Palestinian issue in the Arab and international arenas.

The current Palestinian delegation, which includes PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah al-Hurani and Mahmud Darwish, arrived in Cairo yesterday evening.

Confers With Al-Baz

NC091743 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with the Palestinian delegation, led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, at a working lunch today. The delegation is currently visiting Cairo. The talks then resumed at the Foreign Ministry, focusing on Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the situation in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Following the meeting, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affaires in Egypt, said that relations between Egypt and the PLO were discussed. These relations, he added, are strategic and distinguished and both sides are acting to strengthen them. The discussion also dealt with the Palestinian issue, the crux of the Middle East conflict. Zuhdi al-Qidrah described the talks with Dr 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with Dr Usamah al-Baz, as constructive and useful. They also have shown, he stated, both parties' concern to cement bilateral relations and to strengthen future moves and joint coordination regarding an international conference for peace in the Middle East and the establishment of a just peace that secures the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Discussions With Interior Minister

NC092141 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr met this evening with the Palestinian delegation, led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, which is currently visiting Cairo. They discussed Egyptian-Palestinian relations and ways to develop them.

Sudanese Minister Briefs Mubarak on Talks

NC100840 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi telephoned President Husni Mubarak from Khartoum this morning. During their conversation, they reviewed the results of the recent talks between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in Ethiopia.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stated that the meeting was a promising start to the resolution of differences and the establishment of ties of good-neighborliness between Sudan and Ethiopia.

The Sudanese prime minister also briefed President Mubarak on the results of his meetings with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi during the latter's recent visit to the Sudanese capital. He added that he is looking forward to Dr 'Atif Sidqi's next visit to Khartoum, which is due to take place early next year.

Soviet Economic Delegation Arrives for Talks

Cooperation Protocol Signed

NC091325 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Egypt and the Soviet Union signed an economic cooperation protocol this afternoon. The protocol was signed on behalf of Egypt by 'Izzat Ghaydan, chairman of the General Union of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, and for the Soviet Union by Yevgeniy Petrovich Pitovranov, chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev also attended the signing ceremony.

Officials Discuss Ties

NC092017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1902 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, met with Yevgeniy Pitovranov, chairman of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, today. The Soviet official is currently visiting Cairo. During their talks, the two officials discussed preparations for the visit by a Soviet trade delegation to Cairo on 21 December. A long-term trade protocol between Egypt and the Soviet Union will be signed during the delegation's visit.

Dr Mustafa and Pitovranov also examined ways to increase the volume of bilateral trade through protocols and equitable deals.

The economy minister praised the development of bilateral relations, particularly in the economic sphere. He said that the value of the trade protocol, which will be signed in Cairo this month, is scheduled to increase to 1 billion pounds sterling units of account, compared to the current protocol which totals 650 million pounds sterling units of account.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ghaydan, chairman of the General Union of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce.

Editorial Comments on U.S.-Soviet Summit

NC100649 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR affirms that the great welcome with which the treaty eliminating intermediate nuclear missiles was received should be an impetus for the U.S. and Soviet leaders to continue moving along the road leading to the elimination of all kinds of nuclear weapons, not only in the United States and the Soviet Union, but also in every state that possesses such weapons.

In an editorial appearing in its Thursday edition, the paper says that the continued existence of any nuclear weapon in any part of the world will remain a sword hanging over the necks of the human race and will remove any sense of security and peace, even among the great powers, for use of nuclear weapons in any area of the world will cause a universal catastrophe from which no one will escape.

The paper expresses the hope that the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting will contribute to the settlement of regional conflicts that threaten peoples in Third World states, such as the Middle East problem, which has undermined stability in the region. This will, in itself, constitute a great contribution to the strengthening of world peace and stability, because any danger threatening any part of the world will affect every other place on earth.

Israel's Leaders Termed 'War Criminals'

JN082128 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Dec 87 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The entire world, except for Israel, has condemned and rejected terrorism. The United Nations has issued a resolution against terrorism, which all countries, except for Israel, have approved. This is not a new or abnormal stand for Israel. Israel is very clear and logical. It adheres to its constitution and history; it is honest to the system upon which its state has been established.

Terrorism in Israel is a state policy, not an idea of individuals or groups. The terrorist operations carried out by Israel are planned by the Israeli Government. These operations are organized, supervised, and sometimes even perpetrated by the Israeli Government itself. At other times, these operations are carried out by gangs working for Israel and cooperating with it even if they carry Arab names.

Israel is a state that was established and that lives on terrorism. In light of this, can Israel condemn or object to terrorism? Terrorism in Israel is a certificate, which Israel's leaders pin to their chests. When one of those leaders kills more victims, he gains additional points and moves closer to heroism in Israel. Terrorism in that country is an ongoing affair and a competition among its leaders or among those who dream of becoming its leaders. The hero in Israel is the one who has the highest record of kills among Arabs. Mr Begin was a clear example of this. All leaders before and after Begin are from the same ugly mold, boasting about the number of their victims. Mr Begin was an example of the ugly terrorism in Dayr Yasin and elsewhere. Massacres have continued, like that in Sabra and Shatilla. They have never stopped. Israel's leaders were and still are drawn from the terrorists and war criminals in and around Palestine.

The world is still putting Nazism on trial and condemning Hitler and his followers. Israel is still pursuing the remaining Nazis 45 years after the war, while new Nazis are in power in Israel. Hitler's acts cannot be compared to those of Israel's leaders. Some people even cast doubts about Hitler's crimes while israel's ugly crimes exist and are continuing.

Israel is capitalizing on what Hitler did to the Jews. Meanwhile, the Arabs are not good at the art of campaign and propaganda. They are not presenting a vivid picture of Israel's ugly crimes, although the world is ready to accept this. Television was able to stir up Europe and America against the Jews when it showed the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The Arabs did not exploit this opportunity which, like many others, was missed.

We are not good at anti-Israeli propaganda because we are preoccupied with launching propaganda and waging wars against each other. We have forgotten the most important issue. The Palestine cause no longer has top priority. We now have hostilities within our own ranks, forgetting our primary enemy in the region.

Soviet, PRC Ships Collide in Suez Canal

NC091519 Cairo MENA in English 1510 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Ismailia Dec 9, MENA—A Chinese and a Soviet ship collided today in the Suez Canal waterway due to low visibility. Water infiltrated into the Soviet ship due to a fissure in its body while the Chinese ship suffered slight damage.

The Chinese "Day" ten thousand tonnage ship was coming from the Mediterranean when it collided with the Soviet "Vladimir" four thousand tonnage ship heading to the canal.

The Soviet ship was hauled to shallow waters to avert further infiltration of waters while the Chinese ship continued to sail to Port Said port.

Mubarak Views Nile, Economy, Foreign Policy

NC091958 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak held an expanded meeting at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. It was attended by the prime minister, the deputy prime ministers, a number of other ministers, and the director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Following the 5-hour meeting, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi stated that the discussion had focused on three topics linked to the Nile waters, the economic situation, domestic and foreign affairs, and the reclamation and distribution of land. Regarding the issue of the Nile waters, Sidqi said that except for 1983, the water level has been below average since 1979. This situation has affected the water level in the High Dam Lake. Former governments have studied, and the current government is studying, this issue. He noted that the relevant departments are following up this situation on a daily basis. The prime minister said that the government is aware of this problem, which is a result of natural causes that are beyond our control. He asserted: We have been trying to control these circumstances for many years through the projects that have been established on the Nile, including the High Dam, the Aswan reservoir, and the Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah barrages. The current problem, Sidqi noted, is the result of almost 9 consecutive years of low water level. He noted that two types of measures have been taken for some time to deal with this situation. Sidqi declared that as a result of the measures being taken by the Irrigation Ministry, there are no dangers posed to agriculture, electrity, or river transport.

Sidqi said that there is a long-term plan to increase the storage capacity of lakes, particularly Al-Burullus Lake, in order to benefit from the Nile water that is being wasted when it flows into the Mediterranean. He pointed out that the government is paying a great deal of attention to this issue and that any problems resulting from a water shortage will be dealt with. Sidqi said that if the current water situation continues, then certain simple measures will be implemented to ensure the sound consumption of electricity and water.

Dr Sidqi went on to say that during the meeting the economic situation, the rescheduling of debts, the stock markets, the World Bank, and all aspects of economic relation with various countries were discussed. He noted that all issues related to the rescheduling of debts will be settled by 15 February.

With regard to the free foreign exchange, Sidqi said that the profits totaled $2 billion—it reached $1.9 billion yesterday, a figure once considered representing great optimism. [passage omitted]

For his part, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that during the meeting President Mubarak had examined topics related to foreign policy and Egypt's international relations. He reviewed the factors influencing Egypt's efforts to convene an international conference for peace and the Egyptian-Jordanian coordination within the framework of Arab moves. The president also discussed the outcome of recent contacts with a number of Arab and friendly heads of state to exchange views on the region's issues and to boost economic and trade relations. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Inspects Eastern Border

NC092009 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, traveled along the eastern border, stopping at Rafah, Al-Qusaymah, Al-Kuntillah, Tabah, and Sharm al-Shaykh, from 8 to 9 December. He was accompanied by a number of his advisers. The Armed Forces chief of staff was received by Major General Munir Ahmad Shash, governor of Northern Sinai, who accompanied him to the borders of the governorate. He inspected certain important road projects and legal crossing points, as well as the drilling of underground water projects in Sinai.

Liberal Leaders Outline Reorganization Goals

PM091425 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 7 Dec 87 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Mustafa Murad at Party News Conference: No Intention To Leave Alliance or Eliminate Any Leaders"]

[Text] Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad has denied recent rumors that the party intends to withdraw from the Islamic Alliance and eliminate some of its leaders. He announced that the party has rejected the resignation submitted by Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il, the party's deputy leader, who has resumed his duties. At a news conference held last Wednesday at the party's headquarters in 'Abidin, the Liberal Party leader noted that some people are confused with regard to the party's current internal reorganization, and that some people had gone on to say that there was an intention to replace some leaders and reduce powers delegated to some others. Such rumors might have caused Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il to submit his resignation. Both I and the party have rejected the resignation. At a meeting attended by Engineer Ibrahim Shukri in his capacity as leader of the alliance, Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il declared his conviction that the reorganization is being implemented both democratically and collectively. Some of the matters which had been blemished with confusion and interpretation by certain people were clarified.

The party leader pointed out that the General Secretariat has delegated him to reconsider the party's organizations, program, and rules. Eleven years have elapsed since the party was first launched, during which time it has engaged in four election campaigns for the People's Assembly and two others for the Consultative Council. The first stage of reorganization has been completed, with the political department having been abolished and replaced by the party's leadership council, whose mission is to both formulate and follow up the party's general policy. It convenes at least once a month. It comprises the party leader, his deputies, the acting deputies, and the secretary general, as well as two public figures. The General Secretariat remains the same. It

convenes at least weekly. It carries out the daily supervision of political activities, as well as organizational, financial, and administrative aspects. The party's permanent council meets quarterly to monitor the implementation of general conference resolutions, as well as decisions made by the party's leadership council, and to discuss the quarterly plan; it includes the party's secretaries in governorates and heads of regional committees. The title sicritair 'amm has been changed to amin 'amm [both equivalent to secretary general]. Preparations are underway for the second stage of reorganization regarding the rules and program.

Mustafa Kamil Murad renewed his call for the establishment of a coalition comprising all the opposition parties and other political trends (Muslim Brotherhood, Nasirites, and Communists) in order to bolster democracy and complete the democratic structure in Egypt. He said: The coalition program's constituents were agreed upon at the 'Abidin conference held last February. Another conference will be held next February to follow up the first conference's resolutions. The conference will focus on the need to initiate expanded dialogue on the amendment of the Constitution, election and press laws, the cancellation of martial law and the prosecutor general service, and the lifting of restrictions on student elections and peaceful marches, as well as combating torture inside prisons.

He added: We differ with President Mubarak over the amendment of the Constitution. President Mubarak sees no need to engage in this issue, but we believe that there is a need for the Constitution to be amended, since the 1971 Constitution is no longer in line with political developments accompanying the multiparty system. The Liberal Party leader calls for the amendment of the Constitution to be linked to economic development and for expanded dialogue to be pursued on this issue at the opposition conference to be held next February.

In reply to a question about the causes of differences among the party's leaders, he said: The party's leaders are not cast molds; differences and disputes do take place within all parties, even in well-established democratic states. He stressed that such differences constitute a very normal phenomenon within the framework of party action.

Party deputy leader Salah al-Din al-Rifa'i stated: Some people believe that we are changing the party's program and rules. This is untrue. All that is going to happen is that the program will be developed so as to adjust to the next stage, without a radical change in broad outlines and philosophical trends. The party rules will also be developed, since they have been in force for 11 years; this is to to block loopholes. What is being rumored about the intention to reduce or eliminate some people's powers is absolutely untrue.

Murad al-Subtasi, the party's acting deputy, has indicated that the objective in reorganizing the party structures is to define powers delegated to the party's deputy leaders, acting deputies, and secretary general as well as assistant secretaries. The reorganization is also aimed at creating a kind of effectiveness and cohesion between the party's leadership and its bases.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Doubts Value of INF Treaty

LD101127 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli 10.12 JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to JANA concerning the Soviet-U.S. summit, in which he says:

As much as mankind is pleased with this agreement, which is the first between the two world superpowers for the elimination of nuclear weapons, I fear that the joy of the small peoples will not last and that they will be shocked after this summit, which must have a cost and is bound to be at their expense.

History has accustomed us to the fact that if the great agree, it is at the expense of the small. A number of peoples, including the Libyan, Palestinian, and Lebanese peoples, might have to pay the price. It would be naive to implore Gorbachev and Reagan to stop the Gulf war, which will only be ended by the Iranians and Iraqis. Generally speaking, this summit cannot be considered a peace summit at the international level, but a summit for the elimination of some weapons that the two sides feel constitute a danger only to themselves.

The question of peace interests all peoples; therefore, it can only be decided together by all these peoples. People do not want the superpowers to bring peace to them; all they want is to be left in peace.

CSSR Delegation Attends Meeting, Departs

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD082155 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Czechoslovak National Defense Minister General Milan Vaclavik, who is accompanied by Lieutenant General Jaroslav Klicha, chief of the Political Main Administration and deputy defense minister; Lieutenant General Vladimir Smakal, deputy defense minister for armament affairs; Lieutenant General Jozef Remek, deputy defense minister and (?commander of the Air Force); Major General Josef Mrazek, director of the Secretariat of the Minister of National Defense; Engineer Stanislav Razl, deputy minister of foreign trade; and the Czechoslovak ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Czechoslovak defense minister conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution the greetings of President Gustav Husak, secretary general of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee, as well as his country's wish to develop the existing relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The Czechoslovak defense minister presented the brother leader of the revolution with a symbolic gift.

Concludes Visit

LD091855 Tripoli JANA in English 1741 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—General "Milan Vaclavik" the minister of defence in the republic of Czechoslovakia and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces was present to bid farewell to the Czech minister of defence at Tripoli International Airport.

Took part in the farewell ceremony were some officiers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the ambassador and staff members of the Embassy of Czechoslovakia to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Kharrubi Completes Visit to YAR, PDRY

LD071505 Tripoli JANA in English 1102 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Mustafa Al-Kharrubi, the general inspector of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces has concluded the visit he paid to South Yemen.

During this visit he joined in the celebrations of the Arab people in South Yemen on the 20th anniversary of independence.

President Haydar al-'Attas and Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Sec. Gen. of the Yemen Socialist Party, received Col. Kharrubi who conveyed to them the congratulations of the Libyan Arab people and the leader of the revolution to its brotherly Yemeni people on this occasion.

Additionally, Col. Kharrubi paid a visit to North Yemen and was received there by President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih.

Meanwhile, Col. al-Kharrubi has been conveyed a letter to the leader of the revolution from President Salih.

Lebanon's Junblatt Finishes Visit, Departs

LD092134 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] This evening, Brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party, left Tripoli after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Iranian Envoy Meets Heavy Industries Secretary

LD092225 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Dec. 9, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador in Tripoli Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari conferred with Libya's Secretary of the General People's Committee for Heavy Industries Fathi Shatwan on expansion of economic, industrial and technical relations between the two Muslim countries, here Tuesday.

Khonsari extended an invitation to the Libyan minister, on behalf of Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi for a visit to the Islamic Republic and establishment of Tehran-Tripoli Economic-Industrial Joint Commission.

The Libyan official expressed hope that he would visit Tehran in the near future.

Sudan

Qaysan Region Reported Shelled From Ethiopia

EA092017 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Our Armed Forces have continued their concentrated shelling against the enemies of the homeland and rebels in the southern part of the Blue Nile Province. This reaction began after the outlaws shelled the Qaysan area at noon yesterday from Ethiopian territory. Reports say civilians have been evacuated to safe areas. [passage indistinct]

Government Bombs Kurmuk Area

LD092106 Kuwait KUNA in English 1804 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 9 (KUNA)—A Sudan Armed Forces spokesman Wednesday confirmed that government fighter planes heavily bombarded rebel concentrations in Kurmuk area inflicting heavy casuaties on the rebels. The official SUDAN NEWS AGENCY quoted the spokesman as saying today that the bombardment had successfully scored targets and destroyed unspecified number of rebels defensive positions in the area. The spokesman said a number of Ethiopian helicopters were seen in different kinds of military operations in the area and that units of the Army had ambushed the rebels fleeing the bombardment.

This is the first government account on the military operations for the restoration of the south-eastern border town of Kurmuk which was captured by the rebels a

month ago. Meanwhile, SUNA also quoted a military source at the Army's General Command as saying that the Army had set on fire a rebel camp in Tajjo area south of Waw town. The source said the rebels had left the camps but he did not mention casualties on either side.

Khartoum's Call for Mobilization Derided

EA092315 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Comrades in the armed struggle: As you might have heard, Khartoum's demagogue, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has appealed for a general mobilization of the people in Khartoum to form general mobilization clubs and to organize themselves into a civil defense union to come and recapture Kurmuk from the SPLA. If Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops could not match the SPLA soldiers, how will the untrained civilians come to face the SPLA? We are quite aware of Al-Sadiq's plans of genocide against the Sudanese people, particularly against the southerners, westerners, and the easterners residing in Khartoum.

Sadiq's call for a general mobilization is directed to the Arab nationalities in the north to rise against the African population. We, therefore, call on the international community to take note of this dangerous development and to intervene before any massacre of innocent people could take place elsewhere in northern Sudan. Khartoum's prime minister has also called for donations of money from individuals in the Sudan and outside to sustain his civil defense union in fighting the SPLA forces in Kurmuk. We would like to warn the Sudanese public that the money Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi wants from your pockets is for buying mercenaries who are not coming to fight the SPLA but to exterminate you and to rob you of your property.

He had started by selling western Sudan; if the citizens of western Sudan are not aware, they can better be aware that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has sold their land to a foreign country which has agreed to send troops to Khartoum to fight the SPLA.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's general mobilization program has been received with joy by Sudan's enemies, both abroad and at home, who have agreed to contribute a large sum of money to finance Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's scheme of liquidating certain nationalities in the country. One man in Saudi Arabia has donated $35,000. This is one of Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's benefactors, who are only interested in seeing death and destruction in Sudan. He is never a Sudanese national; if he was, he could have asked himself a question as to why he has gone to Saudi Arabia. What has forced him to leave his country? Is it not the poverty that has been imposed on the nationals of Sudan by lack of proper planning by the sectarian clique regimes in Khartoum? If the national wealth of Sudan was tapped, could he have gone to make money in Saudi Arabia? [sentence as heard]

Why has Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi called for the nation to sustain his unjust war against the Sudanese people and not to call for food aid to alleviate the hunger situation in the country? Those Sudanese nationals at home and abroad who have the capacity to donate things can better be advised to donate food and medicine to the suffering masses of Sudan through the country's humanitarian organization, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, which takes care of the displaced Sudanese nationals in the bushes and sands of our country.

Comrades in struggle, in the face of the severe mass repression by the inhuman minority clique regime in Khartoum, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, has stepped up its military campaign, striking crippling blows at the repressive Army of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. [passage omitted]

Minister on Visit of U.S. General Crist, Aid

JN081207 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Dec (SUNA)—Brigadier General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, minister of state for defense, has declared that the visit of the U.S. military delegation to Sudan has no connection with the current situation. By this he was referring to the subject of Kurmuk. Brig Gen Nasir pointed out that this visit had been arranged a long time ago. Nasir said that the overall U.S. military aid provided in the past was reviewed and noted that Sudan has not requested any U.S. military aid at the present.

He also stated that Sudan is committed to a nonaligned policy and to relations with the outside world on the basis of equality. He indicated that Sudanese relations with the USSR are very good. Brig Gen Nasir also pointed out that the policy of the government aims at diversifying sources for arms, and that there is a 4-year plan to develop the Armed Forces within the framework of the 4-year reform program.

Premier To Pay 'Official' Visit to PRC

JN091100 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Dec (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will depart for the PRC on 19 December at the head of a high-ranking delegation. The visitors will remain there for a 7-day official visit. A responsible source has told AL-AYYAM newspaper that the visit falls within the framework of Sudanese-PRC relations. The source pointed out that the prime minister and his ministerial delegation will hold talks on trade protocols, as well as military, industrial, cultural, and economic cooperation between the two countries. Sudan will also

make several proposals to Chinese officials on forms of cooperation and on methods of further promoting these in the aforementioned sectors. Sudan will additionally explore others ways to initiate new channels of cooperation between itself and the PRC.

Tunisia

Court Sentences Ex-Minister Guiga for Treason

LD092151 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis, 9 Dec (TAP)—The Supreme Court of Justice, presided over by Hedi Said, yesterday evening announced its verdict in the case of former Minister of Interior Driss Guiga. Guiga had appealed against the sentence passed on him on 16 January 1984 after he was tried for high treason.

Guiga was present as the court sentenced him to 5 years at hard labor for carrying out acts harmful to the supreme interests of the homeland. He was also sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment for committing the crime described in Chapter 96 of the Criminal Law. The court additionally decided to strip him of his civil and political rights, to ban him from wearing decorations for 5 years, to make his sentences of imprisonment and hard labor run concurrently, to assist him by delaying his sentence from being carried out for the legally prescribed period, and to make him responsible for paying the legal costs.

The court convened yesterday morning to hear the plea of the defendant.

Western Sahara

UN-OAU Mission Ends Visit, Departs for Geneva

LD100101 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The UN-African joint technical commission delegated to explore the data and information in order to implement the peace plan in the Western Sahara left Tindouf for Geneva this evening after concluding its mission last night in Oued Regg, 40 km from the city of Tifalcin, which was completely destroyed by the Moroccan Army.

Mr Ibrahim Farah, chairman of the UN-African joint technical commission last night gave a statement to the press in which he expressed his satisfaction with the conditions under which the commission's work was directed and the warm reception it had enjoyed from the Saharan officials and people. Mr Farah said that the commission, which he chairs, was delegated by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and current OAU Chairman Kenneth Kaunda to collect an amount of data and information about the situation in the Western Sahara in order to reach a just and peaceful solution for the existing conflict in the region.

During his stay in the liberated territories in the north of the SADR and the camps of the Saharan refugees, which lasted for about a week, the commission held a number of talks with Saharan officials. It also was received last night in Tifariti region by Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front and SADR president.

President Abdelaziz Holds News Conference

LD101103 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The joint UN-OAU commission has concluded its mission by holding a meeting with Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front and president of the SDAR. [passage omitted]

The mission has held a series of meetings with the Polisario Front and has obtained documents and information related to its plan of action. The members of the technical commission have visited three Saharan refugee camps in the Tindouf region and a fourth camp in Dakhla where talks were held with the concerned authorities. The leaders of the Polisario Front accompanied the UN mission to the Tifariti region yesterday, where it met with Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR. The talks between the technical committee and Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz were the last stage in the committee's schedule before leaving for New York to present a report on its mission to the UN secretary general and the current OAU chairman.

For his part, Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz held a news conference in the Tifariti region in the liberated territories, which was attended by the international press. The news conference focused on the reasons for and aims of the UN mission, as well as the contents of the talks it held with Saharan civilian and military authorities. Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz expressed his satisfaction with the visit paid by the members of the technical committee to the liberated regions and the camps. He affirmed the will of the Saharan people to acquire their freedom, national independence, and rights, as well as their preparedness to cooperate with the United Nations and the OAU in order to find a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution to the conflict existing with the Moroccan regime. The Saharan president reiterated his people's trust in the international peace plan contained in the UN and OAU resolutions.

Kuwait

UN Told of 'Repeated' Iranian 'Aggression'

LD092251 Kuwait KUNA in English 1745 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] United Nations, Dec 9 (KUNA)—Kuwait Wednesday officially informed the international community of Iran's repeated acts of aggression against its territory, the latest of which took place last Monday. In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Kuwait's Ambassador [to the United Nations] Muhammad 'Abd al-Hasan [name as received] said that on Monday, December 7, Iran committed another act of aggression against Kuwait by launching a Silkworm missile at the southern part of its territorial waters. The missile fell close to some Kuwaiti oil installations, 'Abd al-Hasan added in the letter, which he requested to be circulated to member states as an official document of the Security Council.

Further on Visit of Pakistani Prime Minister

Meets Chamber of Commerce Head

LD091354 Kuwait KUNA in English 0931 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 9 (KUNA)—Visiting Pakistani Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo Wednesday discussed with President of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'Abd al-'Aziz Hamad al-Saqr and other economic, investment and banking figures means of upgrading bilateral trade and activating economic and investment cooperation between the two countries.

Kuwaiti ambassador to Islamabad, and member of the mission of honor accompanying the guest, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bakr told KUNA that Junejo met with Al-Saqr and the other representatives at his residence in Al-Salam Palace.

Al-Saqr explained to the prime minister importance of bolstering bilateral relations in these spheres in the interest of both parties, Al-Bakr added.

He said businessmen attending the meeting tabled their views regarding methods of strengthening the two countries' economic cooperation for the benefit of their joint interests.

The ambassador noted that Junejo welcomed the tabled ideas, stressing the importance of bolstering ties between his country and member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council which groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The two parties further reviewed reasons for declining volume of the two-way trade which they noted are topped by Iraq-Iran war circumstances and the international economic recession, Al-Bakr said.

He added that they agreed on exchanging commercial delegations at both official and private levels and on forming a committee of Pakistani merchants to visit Kuwait at an appropriate time.

Saqr and other chamber members, attending the meeting, asked for a comprehensive study on the Pakistani economic situation and possible areas of future cooperation, the ambassador concluded.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD091520 Kuwait KUNA in English 1013 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 9 (KUNA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo left here Wednesday for home at conclusion of an official three-day visit to Kuwait. The premier was seen off by H.H. Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and a number of ministers and senior officials.

Before departing here, the guest toured a number of landmarks in Kuwait City accompanied by head of the mission of honor and Minister of Public Works 'Abd al-Rahman al-Huti.

During his stay here, Junejo met with H.H. the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, and held an official and a private rounds of talks with Shaykh Sa'd in addition to meeting with Pakistani community here and representatives of Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other businessmen.

Junejo's talks here centered on boosting bilateral ties in various spheres with emphasis on the economic fields. The premier arrived here on Monday at the third and final leg of a Gulf tour that took him first to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Prime Minister Receives PLO's 'Arafat

LD091603 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] H.H. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met with Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO [Executive Committee], at the hospitality palace in Ad Dasma' at 1245 today. Brother 'Arafat is currently visiting Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Muhammad 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Rifa'i, minister of electricity and water; 'Abd al-Latif 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bahar, director general of the Office of the Heir Apparent and director of the Council of Ministers; and Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

Cabinet Reviews Oil Prices, Production Levels

LD070950 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, stated that the Council began its meeting by reviewing the contents of the message that his highness the amir received from his brother, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This message concerned Arab events and the efforts being made to strengthen Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

Mr al-Rashid added that the Council discussed oil affairs in light of a report submitted by Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi on the subjects to be discussed at the OPEC meeting in Vienna. The Council largely discussed levels of production and prices, means to ensure total commitment to these levels, and methods for monitoring them. This is a matter that will contribute to consolidating the required stability in the international oil market. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Al-'Attas Congratulates YAR on Oil Shipment

EA101111 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, this evening made a telephone call to his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland. In his call, Brother al-'Attas conveyed the congratulations of the political leadership and that of the masses of the southern part of the homeland on the occasion of the export of the first shipment of Yemeni oil.

He pointed out that this significant national event is one benefit of the victorious march of the Yemeni revolution. This revolution destroyed the eras of despotism and colonialism and opened a path of new life, progress, and unity for our people.

In his telephone call, Brother al-'Attas noted that this event increases the strength of Yemeni nationalists and revolutionaries in their continuous struggle to attain the objectives of the Yemeni revolution. The most important of these goals is the great aim of our Yemeni people to reunify the Yemeni motherland, its land and its people through peaceful and democratic means. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Sends Message to Reagan, Gorbachev

LD091751 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1533 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, has sent a message to His Excellency Ronald Reagan, U.S. President, and His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU General Secretary, on the occasion of the convening of the U.S.-Soviet summit. Here is the text of the message:

Your Excellency Ronald Reagan, U.S. President,

Your Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary

Greetings,

On the occasion of the convening of the U.S.-Soviet summit conference, I am pleased to extend my greetings and best wishes. I wish all success to your conference in the service of international peace and security. These are matters that your friendly countries have a great responsibility toward.

On this occasion, I would like to say that international peace and security are matters that concern all states, both great and small, regardless of their systems and regimes, now that international cohesion and contacts have become a reality and a prominent characteristic of this era. The peoples in the different states of the world thus look forward to your historic conference. They do this with great trust and hope that security and stability will prevail in all parts of the world.

On this occasion, I want to point out the numerous problems and difficulties that beset the Middle East. I am convinced that Your Excellencies know and adequately appreciate these problems, including that of the Palestinian Arab people. For several years they have suffered from being deprived of their rights, which are recognized by all international norms and resolutions, especially by UN resolutions. They are looking with great hope to your wisdom and your appreciation of their rights and just humanitarian cause.

On this occasion, I cannot help but emphasize the problem of the Iraq-Iran war. It has continued for several years and has resulted in destruction and suffering for people in both countries. This war has now passed beyond the bounds of a conflict between two countries—it is threatening the security, safety, and stability of the region. It is also threatening the security of the world due to its international repercussions. This requires that this conflict be ended, which is why we invest great hope in your efforts to implement the UN Security Council resolutions to stop this war and avert its actual and potential dangers.

I also cannot help but stress the fact that the issue of the Afghan people is a just humanitarian one that concerns their natural rights and dignity. I am persuaded that Your Excellencies will give this issue the attention it deserves.

Excellencies, there is great hope in seeing the establishment of a new international order, one that is based, through both of you, on principles of equality and cooperation with all nations and peoples. This would guarantee international security, stability, and prosperity.

Finally, I reiterate my wishes of success for your historic conference, and of good health and happiness for Your Excellencies.

[Signed] Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Inaugurates Pipeline, 1st Oil Shipment

JN100849 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpts] With God's blessing, and at the peak of the celebrations marking the silver jubilee of the Yemeni resolution—the 25th anniversary of the immortal 26 September Revolution—and the crowning of our people's revolutionary victories in accordance with the National Charter; and, in continuing the great strategic accomplishments of the revolution for the homeland and the people, Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, yesterday opened and inaugurated the gigantic and strategic oil export project at 'Isa, in Al-Hudaydah Governorate. The brother leader and secretary general considers the completion of this project to be one of the great accomplishments of the revolution.

The brother leader president unveiled the monumental plaque commemorating the pipeline project and the export installations, and then declared them officially opened. He next departed for the pipeline site, where he turned the valve that began the flow of oil from Safir. Later, the brother leader president proceeded to the pipeline site which leads to the floating reservoir at the port. He turned the wheel that activated it, thus allowing the oil to flow to the floating reservoir and from there to the loading ship. This initiated the first shipment of oil in the history of our country, amid an overwhelming feeling of joy and jubilation.

Speaking at a ceremony on this occasion, Brother Ahmad 'Ali Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, made a welcoming speech in which he expressed his joy and pride on this important, historic day. [passage omitted]

The brother minister noted that the pipeline project, which cost $294 million, is the greatest development project so far implemented in the Republic. [passage omitted] He added that the oil pipeline that stretches from Oilfield (A) in the Ma'rib-al-Jawf Basin to 'Isa on the Red Sea coast is 440 km long and has an initial capacity of 225,000 barrels per day. The latter figure will increase to 400,000 barrels per day in a few months. [passage omitted]

Finally, brother leader President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih delivered the following address:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May the peace and blessings of God be upon the messenger of right and justice, Muhammad, the faithful Arab prophet.

Dear brothers, friends, and masses of our great Yemeni people:

I extend my congratulations to you on this great, historic occasion, the occasion of inaugurating the export of oil from our ports on the Red Sea. This great, historic achievement was a dream both inside and outside the homeland. Today, it has become a tangible reality that we can see with our own eyes. The revenue from this national resource will benefit all of our Yemeni people, for this wealth belongs to all of the people. It will change our social and political life, in addition to all other walks of life. The revenue from this wealth will be used to carry out the 3d 5-Year Plan and all future plans, especially in the fields of agriculture and industry, which are the two important, strategic objectives. It will be allocated to complete the remaining structures in the service sector. This wealth will additionally be utilized to strengthen that national institution, those brave and faithful guardians who stand on every mountain peak and plain in defense of the Republic and the revolution, namely, the Armed Forces and the security forces establishment.

This great, historic achievement would not have been possible without the concerted efforts, national unity, and cooperation of the masses in every village, town, and governorate. Security and stability are what we are investing in today, by producing this wealth from this good land. Let us all unite our efforts, strengthen our resolve, and repudiate the differences and rancor we inherited from the defunct regimes. Let us live under this just and democratic system of republicanism and adhere to the permanent constitution and the national document—the National Charter. As I said, this great achievement is the outcome of concerted efforts, national unity, and the soundness of the foreign policy of our nation. Our country upholds the policy of nonalignment and positive neutrality. It cooperates with all brothers and friends on the basis of common interests and the general interest of our people. [passage omitted]

In the name of the masses of our people, I would like to thank Mr Ray Hunt and the American Hunt Company for fulfilling their obligations under the plans and programs agreed upon since oil prospecting began. I would also like to thank the unsung workers in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources for their devotion to duty since this prospecting began. Peace be with you. [end recording]

'Aziz Meets UN Security Council President

JN091956 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in New York today with Gennadiy Udovenko, Soviet UN representative and UN Security Council president for this month. Tariq 'Aziz acquainted the UN Security Council president with Iraq's stand on UN efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war and settling the dispute between the two countries comprehensively.

Earlier today, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister concluded talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. During the talks, 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's absolute welcome of Resolution 598 and urged its implementation as an indivisible whole according to the sequence of its articles.

Oil Minister on Quotas, Export Capacity

PM091214 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Dec 87 p 35

[Interview with Oil Minister Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi by Francoise Chipaux in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] Baghdad—"Our principles have not changed. Either we obtain the same production quota as Iran and the OPEC conference leads to a comprehensive agreement on consolidating the market, or we refuse to support any decision." With just a few days to go before the OPEC meeting in Vienna on 9 December, Iraqi Oil Minister 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi was determined. Mr al-Jalabi, a smiling man who has short, graying hair and wearing the olive green fatigues worn by all Ba'th Party leadership members, knows he has strong arguments this time in view of the fact that Iraq is now exceeding the quota allocated to it by OPEC by more than 1 million barrels per day and is producing more than the Iranian quota.

Iraqi production is 2.7 million barrels per day, of which 2.2 million barrels are exported, according to the minister, whereas the quota which OPEC has allocated to Iraq, which Iraq has rejected, is 1.54 million barrels per day. Iran, however, has a quota of 2.36 million barrels per day. The equation is simple, Mr al-Jalabi stated, "either there is an agreement and we reduce our production to conform with OPEC's demands, or we fail to obtain satisfaction and we continue to produce more."

The increase in the export capacity of the pipeline between Kirkuk and Dortyol in Turkey from the end of July 1987—which has increased from around 1 million barrels per day to 1.5 million—has given Iraq new means of influencing the OPEC decision. After being deprived of any export route through the Gulf since the start of the war with Iran in 1980 and of the trans-Syrian pipeline since 1982, Baghdad is now solving its export problems. The agreement on the construction of the IPSA-2, in other words the pipeline between Zubayr and Yanbu' in Saudi Arabia, has been signed and awarded to a Japanese-Korean-Italian-French consortium.

According to the minister, the pipeline should be operational in September 1989, with a capacity of 1.1 million barrels per day. This would then give Iraq an export capacity of around 3.2 million barrels per day; in other words, a return to the prewar situation. The work will be paid for in oil, at a rate of 110,000 barrels per day. With regard to possible means of pressure on Iraqi exports which this would give Saudi Arabia in its efforts to support the oil market, for instance, Mr al-Jalabi was confident: "That will not happen. The pipeline, which crosses Saudi territory, is Iraqi and is the result of an agreement between the two countries," he said, before adding: "We do not think that this eventuality should be considered."

Pending an improvement in Syrian-Iraqi relations, the pipeline to Baniyas remains closed but, as Mr al-Jalabi said, it would provide an additional potential if it could be reopened, which, in any case, would take time in view of the necessary repair work. However, a pipeline to Aqaba, which was considered at one time, is no longer on the agenda.

At all events, Mr al-Jalabi stated, Iraq will not end its exports by oil truck through Jordan and Turkey until 1989. These exports account for a total of around 250,000 barrels per day, of which two-thirds is crude oil and one-third refined oil.

Mr al-Jalabi also denied that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had stopped the gift of between 200,000 and 300,000 barrels per day from the neutral zone donated to help the Iraqi war effort. Without wishing to go into detail, Mr al-Jalabi seemed to admit that no new formal agreement has been signed, as has been the case since 1983, but, he said, "we have certain arrangements with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and we will continue these arrangements."

A Happy Minister [subhead]

Mr al-Jalabi, who has been in charge of oil affairs since last March, is undoubtedly a happy minister. "It is not easy," he said, "but we have succeeded in solving all our problems. At present we are exporting our oil to more than 50 countries and we are selling it all." In view of the increase in exports since July 1987 and the fact that a barrel of oil costs $18, Iraq ought to receive around $12 billion in oil revenue this year. This is a very marked increase over 1986 ($7 billion). Indeed, according to the experts, Iraq has a considerable potential which has as yet not been fully explored, and prospecting is now starting.

According to Mr al-Jalabi, Iraqi oil deposits total 140 billion barrels—"100 billion definite, and 40 billion probable"—in other words, 140 years production at the present rate....At all events, one thing is certain, the oil

sector is second only to the war effort and there are numerous projects. The development of new oil fields is on the agenda, notably the East Baghdad and West Al-Qurnah oil fields, which have been entrusted to the Soviets who have virtually completed the work, and the field northwest of Kirkuk.

Despite the fact that the total refining capability covers the country's domestic needs and even makes it possible to export refined products, a new refinery is being built and will have a capacity of 50,000 barrels per day, according to the minister. "Iran would like to see us halt our development completely," Mr al-Jalabi said, "but life goes on here. Work goes on too, and many countries and enterprises are continuing their activities in Iraq."

The minister, who is aware that "oil is a weapon" for the two warring sides, takes an attacking attitude in this sphere which will continue to be as much a priority after the war when it will be necessary to construct and overcome the effects of the fighting.

Trade Minister on Oil Exports to Brazil

JN101113 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Dec 87 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] Amman—Iraqi Trade Minister Dr Muhammad Mahdi Salih al-Rawi has announced that Iraq will begin supplying Brazil with 50,000 barrels of oil a day in the near future. This will take place by land across Jordan and then via the port of Aqaba.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B yesterday, Dr al-Rawi said these quantities will be conveyed from Iraq to Aqaba daily by oil trucks. The Iraqi trade minister, who is chairing Iraq's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Economic Unity Council's 48th session which began in Amman yesterday, added that the export of this quantity of oil was a result of a trade agreement signed with the Brazilian Government a few days ago. [Passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

2 Iranian Boats Repulsed

JN091548 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port force yesterday confronted two Iranian boats attempting to approach it and forced them to flee. In a statement to INA today, a military spokesman said that the Iraqi units in the Special I Army Corps sector managed to kill four enemy soldiers and destroy an infantry position. One of the enemy soldiers was killed and a machinegun emplacement and a forklift were destroyed in the East Tigris sector. The spokesman added that the VII Army Corps men killed two enemy soldiers, destroyed a 106-mm gun and three machineguns, killing their crew, destroyed a tank, and blew up an ammunition dump.

Communique No 2,944

JN091804 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,944 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continue their heroic activities, inflicting new losses on our country's enemies. The following is a roundup for the activities of last night and today:

1. To continue our unchanging and legitimate course of depriving the Iranian regime of any vital installations supporting its aggressive war machine, our aircraft launched a successful raid on selected targets at the Khaneh sugar factory at 1150 [0850 GMT] today. After pounding their targets, they returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—four of the aggressors were killed and one infantry position was destroyed.

3. One enemy soldier was killed, one machinegun emplacement was destroyed, and one forklift was set ablaze and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

4. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: two scoundrels were killed; three machineguns were destroyed and their men killed; one 106-mm gun and one tank were destroyed; and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. Two enemy boats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq port yesterday. They were confronted by the heroic port force and forced to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 December 1987

'Large Martime Target' Hit

JN100557 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0544 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 10 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force has pursued and will continue to pursue the enemy night and day to destroy its vital targets and cut off its oil supply lifelines whose revenues have been used by the charalatans for their aggressive purposes. At 2300 [2000 GMT] yesterday, the rapacious hawks launched a successful raid against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast. After dealing the target an accurage and effective blow, the hawks returned with their planes safely to base in God's care.

[Dated] 10 December 1987

2d 'Maritime Target' Attacked

JN101108 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1056 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Iraqi warplanes today dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast and returned safely to base. A military spokesman has told INA that at 1030 [0730 GMT] today, Iraqi planes dealt a blow to this maritime target, the second maritime target hit by Iraqi aircraft in the past 12 hours.

AL-THAWRAH on Statements by Iran's Larijani

JN091354 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "We Will Repulse and Crush Their Offensive"]

[Text] Iraq is strong politically and militarily. It has all means and conditions of victory at its disposal. Since UN Security Council Resolution 598 was issued on 20 July, Iraq has seized all opportunities to prove its support for the resolution of international legitimacy. Iraq has expressed its readiness to fully cooperate to implement the resolution in letter and spirit with good intentions and in accordance with the resolution's logical sequence.

Also, since the issuance of this resolution, and despite all the Iranian regime's maneuvers and exposed procrastinations and attempts to conceal its true stand toward the resolution, it has become clear that the Iranian regime has rejected and is still rejecting it in word and deed. It has also become clear that this regime insists on continuing its aggressive war against Iraq and the Arab nation and that it defies the international will which has unanimously adopted Resolution 598 to end the war and to achieve a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The United Nations has given the Iranian regime several opportunities to reconsider its stand toward the resolution. Despite this, the Iranian regime has continued to adhere to its ridiculous conditions, to flagrantly and arrogantly defy the will of the international community, and to express its indifference to all laws and charters organizing relations among states in this age.

Within the framework of a new opportunity the United Nations has given to Iran, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani left for New York to hold new talks with the UN secretary general on Resolution 598. This Iranian official held a news conference at the United Nations in which he bragged about his regime's military mobilization and readiness to carry out a new offensive against Iraq. However, nothing has leaked out on the talks other than that they have frustrated the UN secretary general.

At his news conference, Larijani reiterated his regime's ridiculous conditions for accepting the resolution. He also confirmed that Iran rejects Resolution 598 in word and deed and that there is no change or flexibility in the Iranian regime's stand contrary to some sides' expectations.

What the deputy Iranian foreign minister said at the United Nations and what the other Iranian regime's officials said and are saying about their military mobilization and imminent aggression against our country is sufficient to convince all those who are not yet convinced that there is no use in giving the Iranian regime more opportunities. In fact, giving Iran new opportunities means encouraging it to continue its hostility, arrogance, and defiance of the international community. The experience of the last 4 and 1/2 months has proven this.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister defies international will at the United Nations. He announces his regime's insistence on rejecting a peaceful settlement. He brags about his regime's readiness to carry out a new aggression against Iraq. When these things happen, this means that Iran's Khomeyni has left no choice to the international community other than imposing sanctions on Iran in accordance with the UN Charter. However, wagering on its stand toward the resolution and a peaceful settlement is like wagering on a mirage.

Iran's aggressive acts against Iraq and the other Arab Gulf states and the Iranian rulers' hysterical statements and threats since 20 July have clearly embodied Iran's rejection of Resolution 598 and its reckless insistence on continuing the war in spite of the will of the international community and world public opinion.

We do not accuse any side when we say that the hesitation of the United Nations to implement the resolution has encouraged the Tehran regime to further continue its maneuvers and evil attempts to bypass the resolution. This has also encouraged it to escalate its criminal and aggressive actions against Iraq and the other Arab Gulf states. This regime has shelled Kuwait and Baghdad with missiles and escalated its piracy in the Arabian Gulf. It is also preparing to carry out a new aggression against our country and people.

Resolution 598 is not an Iraqi resolution; it was issued unanimously by the UN Security Council. Moreover, this resolution is of a binding and a comprehensive nature. Although Iraq expresses its support for the resolution, it also announces its rejection of any attempt by any side to divide it or to reorganize its clauses. Undoubtedly, a move to the second page of the resolution to impose sanctions is what the Iranian regime deserves.

However, regarding the imminent aggression about which Tehran's Zionists are bragging, we say that we have deep confidence in our heroic Armed Forces' ability to repulse and crush it just as they did with the defeated Iranian offensives in the past 7 years. Before this aggression takes place, we will continue to strike at the heads of the vile Khomeyniites, to crush the pillars of their aggression, and to deal blows to the vital targets which supply them with additional means to continue their treacherous aggression against our country and people.

Peres on Continuing Soviet Arms Supply to Syria
TA101244 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Syria's responsibility for the latest terrorist attacks is obvious to Israel, and that the former will not be able to hide behind the image of an innocent lamb. Minister Peres spoke to our correspondent Hayim Hecht during a tour of Qiryat Shemona:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Two weeks have passed since the night of the hang glider attack, a local resident reminded Shim'on Peres. Everybody loudly accuses the Syrians and vows to strike back at the culprits, but nothing is being done. Does this prove, the man wondered, that we are simply weak?

[Peres] It shows one thing: this is not a subject to be aired in front of a microphone.

[Hecht] Nevertheless, Shim'on Peres spoke very bluntly about Syria.

[Peres] The Syrians must be told that we know what we are talking about. Syria pretends to be an innocent lamb and tells the world that it is no longer engaging in terrorism, and so on and so forth. We must show things as they really are. This is our primary duty.

[Hecht] Peres believes that the Reagan-Gorbachev summit does not signify tranquility for our region and that the atmosphere of reconciliation does not guarantee that the Syrians will not receive the Soviet SS-23 missiles.

[Peres] On the contrary, I think that the Soviet Union has recently supplied additional weapons to Syria. I know that the Soviets have delivered additional aircraft, artillery guns, etc.

[Hecht] As soon as the summit meeting in Washington ends tomorrow, Peres says, we will resume our political initiatives. Reagan and Gorbachev can definitely call it a day without an international conference, but we cannot rest on our laurels.

[Peres] I am waiting for the summit meeting in Washington to end. There will be 5 months until the next summit in Moscow, and during this period we will try to raise new ideas. I think it is vital not to lose what has already been accomplished in our relations with the Arab world. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shomron Interviewed on Syria, Glider Attack
TA092053 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Studio interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by Yoram Ronen and military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky on 9 December carried within the "Moqed" program; videorecorded]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Since the night of the hang glider attack a lot has been said and written about complacency in the IDF, loose discipline, a lack of motivation on the part of combat soldiers, and intelligence blunders. Of course, the hang glider attack will be the main topic we will be discussing with Chief of Staff Lt Gen Dan Shomron. Good evening to you.

[Shomron] Good evening.

[Ronen] Nevertheless, I propose that we start with a matter related to current news. Last night the United States and the Soviet Union signed an agreement for the eradication of medium-range missiles. As is known, Syria was about to receive SS-23 medium-range missiles. Now that the Syrians may not receive them, do you think this means the risk of a war between us and Syria has decreased?

[Shomron] I do not know whether the Syrians were about to receive those missiles. In the wake of the agreement between the superpowers, one that entails verification procedures and all sorts of understandings, I believe it is only natural for the superpowers to be considerate of each other concerning areas of tension, and to restrain their clients so that the latter do not get them into trouble. At the moment, we do not know the significance of the fact that SS-23 missiles will not be arriving in Syria. I hope chances are now higher that these missiles will not arrive in Syria. I would like to add something else. The Arab countries, including Syria, are trying to develop their own medium-range missiles.

[Ronen] Will the atmosphere created between the United States and the Soviet Union, which in its wake has brought the eradication of missiles and a decrease in the risk of war, not have an effect on Syria as well?

[Shomron] I hope so. Such hopes do exist.

[Shlonsky] Is Syria developing medium-range missiles on its own?

[Shomron] Syria is not doing that on its own, but Arab countries such as Egypt and Iraq, in cooperation with foreign companies, are working on the development of medium-range missiles.

[Shlonsky] Although the border with Syria is calm, the Lebanese border is not. A soldier was killed there yesterday. We occasionally hear that Syria is behind terrorist attacks in Lebanon. But, nevertheless, it has so far gone scot free. Why has Syria gone scot free despite its involvement in terrorist attacks against the IDF in Lebanon over the last 2 years?

[Shomron] Syria is definitely harboring several terrorist organizations but the latter do not launch their attacks from the Syrian border. In that respect, the border is calm. However, Syria allows terrorists to train and organize on its soil, and they leave through other places such as Lebanon and by sea. Where, when, and how to

strike back at the terrorists entails complex considerations, not just military but political ones as well. Of course, the government will be the one to decide.

[Shlonsky] Did the United States ask Israel to abstain from retaliating for the hang glider attack? And did Israel comply with this request in light of the summit meeting in Washington?

[Shomron] I do not know of such a request. In any event, it is clear to the United States that the final decision on these matters will be made by Israel.

[Shlonsky] The fact remains that in the last few years Syria has never suffered any harm. It was harmed by U.S. diplomatic measures, but it was not dealt any direct belligerent blow by Israel.

[Shomron] The fact you mention is correct.

[Ronen] The day after the hang glider attack, you and the prime minister reiterated that those responsible for it would not get off scot free. Do you still adhere to your position that the IDF will strike back at the culprits?

[Shomron] I say that the decision when and where to strike back at the culprits will certainly not be made here, over the media, but by the government.

[Ronen] Sir, there were terrorist attacks this week as well. Today we heard about the successful uncovering of the gang that murdered the late 'Ofra Moses. But at the same time an Israeli was stabbed to death in Gaza, and there were other terrorist incidents that miraculously did not hurt people in inhabited areas. This is being attributed to the rise of organizations such as Islamic Jihad. Do you think the terrorist organizations have changed their tactics?

[Shomron] No. First of all, I would like say that terrorism is a war, a battle that is won not by a knockout but rather on points. This means that we must have the moral strength to be able to sustain this war for a long period of time and not be affected by each and every incident. We will still suffer blows. This is the nature of the war against terrorism.

The fact remains that tens of thousands of Israelis live in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. They move around, do business, and go about their normal work. On the other hand, part of the Arab population in the territories works in Israel. Despite this difficult situation in which terror tries to make its way through the borders and from the territories, we ultimately succeed in maintaining normal life. This is a key point that must always be kept in mind.

Speaking about successes, I am glad to inform you that the gang that threw the firebombs that killed the mother and son of the Moses family and threw firebombs at the Regev family, a gang we could not find for a long time—we found many other terrorist gangs in the meantime—has been apprehended. This gang started out as an independent organization and did not belong to any umbrella organization. However, after they felt they had had some success, its members joined the DFLP on their own initiative.

[Shlonsky] Were they found to possess any weapons when they were caught?

[Shomron] I do not know if they had any weapons. They had firebombs, which are readily available.

Let me briefly refer to the issue of Islamic Jihad. The Islamic extremism exported by Iran, whose ideology is based on an Islamic world revolution, has infiltrated Palestinian terrorist organizations for its own reasons, to hitch a ride on them and perhaps succeed in obtaining what they want quicker. Of course, the terrorists also have an interest in recruiting extremist members. There are internal power struggles about who rules over whom. The rise in this terrorism, however, is particularly evident in the Gaza District.

[Ronen] Would you say there has been a real change, that in the past terrorist organizations would get orders for action from umbrella organizations in Lebanon and Syria, whereas today there are more local, improvised groupings of two to three Arabs in the territories working almost of their own accord?

[Shomron] True, the latter are naturally much more available. There is a large population with a motivation to carry out attacks, and that is why groupings crop up that are not connected with any organization.

[Ronen] Are they harder to tackle?

[Shomron] They are usually less harmful and we are coping with them successfully. What I am saying is: Look at what is happening in the territories. The bottom line is that people lead normal lives, despite it all.

[Shlonsky] As far as Israel is concerned, is Islamic Jihad a greater threat to Israel than the Palestinians in terms of the local nature of terrorist attacks?

[Shomron] These groups are not very active but they are very extremist. The majority of the recent actions are connected with the Islamic Jihad. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] You earlier noted the issue of early warning in the Northern Command, the preparations by the northern kibbutzim and by the IDF camps as a result of the glider incident. Nevertheless, there was no early warning intelligence to the effect that the Ahmad Jibril organization was training with gliders and balloons and intends to carry out a glider attack in northern Israel. Does the absence of early warning intelligence not worry you?

[Shomron] It is very imprecise to say that there was no information. We knew they were being trained on gliders, and this, incidentally, does not pertain to Jibril only. We also knew about the gliders' performance capability. We had no immediate, concrete early warning that the incident was going to take place then. But we knew that it was highly plausible that this entire system which includes the security zone in southern Lebanon would give us an early warning when a glider penetrated. That is indeed what happened.

The question is how much to invest in everything. I know that there are demands today that even the brigades of paratroopers, NAHAL, Golani and others in the rear camps entrench themselves in. Gentlemen, the IDF has to look to the future. As for some things, we surely cannot close them down hermetically.

[Shlonsky] Are you not troubled by the fact that the early warning about the arriving glider was given by a soldier who was in southern Lebanon rather than the Air Force? Did the Air Force not manage to detect the gliders that came?

[Shomron] No, and incidentally, this is no surprise. We knew that for this type of aircraft, its detection would apparently be made by observations on the ground. On one hand, this type of aircraft cannot fly at a high altitutde; on the other, observation posts in the area are scattered. Orders indeed mandate that the duty of the soldiers engaged in ambushes or other tasks is to tune in to such occurrences. This has indeed been successful. What you are now telling me about something is something that succeeded. What would you have done had it not succeeded? It did succeed, though. It is clear that after something happens we will naturally invest even more means to close out the matter better, if not hermetically, since one success encourages others. Although the terrorist did not manage to penetrate our territory unpunished, we are afraid that his success may prompt additional attempts, so we will give still better answers to...

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Are there signs?

[Shomron] The signs are not immediate. As for motivation, we have clear indication that motivation exists.

[Ronen] Mr Chief of Staff, you repeat time and again that it is impossible to close down, to seal off the state's borders hermetically. This statement triggered the criticism of Minister Ari'el Sharon, for one, who said that one should not make such a statement, that such a statement in fact possibly invites terrorists to penetrate, that what a chief of staff should tell soldiers is that any terrorist who enters will not leave alive, that it perhaps somewhat decreases the soldiers' motivation and encourages the terrorists to penetrate our territory.

[Shomron] The fact is that no terrorist who entered left alive. Still, Minister Sharon's comment was not directed at me but rather at the defense minister. And let me repeat the defense minister's reply. Rabin said he will not give the IDF orders that cannot be carried out. I will say that every effort should be made so that nobody enters, but I will not issue an order that cannot be implemented.

[Ronen] In other words, is it impossible to instruct the IDF soldiers to kill every terrorist who enters?

[Shomron] Yes, of course. But that is not the question. Your question was different. Your question was: Is it possible to say that never and under no circumstances will any terrorist be able to enter? My reply to this question is that it is impossible to say so a hundred percent of the time. [passage omitted]

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Attitude

TA081642 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
8 Dec 87 p 10

[Commentary by Yehoshu'a Bitzur: "The Ambassador Who Came From Amman"]

[Text] Ambassador Thomas Pickering apparently has forgotten that he no longer serves as the representative of the U.S. Administration at the court of the Jordanian king, where he was accustomed to everything going according to Husayn's dictates. It is apparently hard for the ambassador to get used to the idea that he now serves in a democratic, free country, in which completely different rules apply to what is permitted and what is forbidden in diplomacy.

When a U.S. ambassador serves in a totalitarian country such as Jordan, he is aware that he must maintain close relations with the leaders of the regime because all the others automatically follow the king's word. Public opinion also does not have great value because it has very little influence on the ruler's decisions. In such countries, especially in the Third World, U.S. diplomats maneuver to strengthen or weaken the man in power according to instructions from Washington. When he serves in these countries Pickering seems to put democracy aside.

Mr Pickering found a completely different reality in Israel, a country that does not have a monarch or ruler to whom hints, which are in fact orders and instructions, can be relayed. Even the prime minister, because he is subordinate to the Knesset and its resolutions, is incapable of executing everything according to his wishes. Things do not exactly go according to a dictate from the U.S. Embassy.

Recently we again heard a public attack from him on the way the Israeli Government functions. For this purpose he chose the Labor Party's Haifa District convention as a forum. When a foreign diplomat starts to appear at party functions it is considered a new practice. The other

ambassadors accredited to Israel studiously avoid such involvement in party affairs. If Mr Pickering wants to maintain a balance, at least outwardly, he will have to appear at forums of 14 other parties represented in the Knesset.

It would be interesting to know how public opinion and the media in the United States would react if the Israeli ambassador appeared at Democratic or Republican branches, expressing his reservations about the problems in U.S.-Soviet relations and preaching to the administration in Washington on how to behave. His behavior would be described as impudent.

Ambassador Pickering has apparently not forgotten Amman, and in Tel Aviv he is implementing a Jordanian policy built entirely on options desirable to Husayn. From the northern platform of the Labor Party, he accused the Israeli Government of infringing on the human rights of the residents in the territories, arguing that the government does not do enough to improve the quality of their lives. To be sure, as will be recalled, Husayn, who is acceptable to Pickering, did a lot to improve the life of the Palestinians in Jordan in Black September. He transferred 5,000 of them to the netherworld in one fell swoop.

Above all, the ambassador warned in his appearance that he hopes for an international conference, expressing the conviction that next year's elections in the United States and Israel will not hold up the "peace process." This was the ambassador's reply to Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks that the conference idea is dead and that we must reach unconditional direct negotiations with our neighbors.

Shamir had good reason for making these remarks. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz from the beginning has been hesitant about the international conference. When he left us at the end of his latest visit to Jerusalem he said that he does not want to intervene in the internal Israeli debate on this issue, especially since there are various ways to further the peace process.

Also at that meeting, Shultz suggested that Husayn consider the path of direct negotiations. Frank Carlucci, the new secretary of defense, told members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that the idea of an international conference cannot be implemented at this stage, adding that he was also concerned about providing the Soviets a foothold that would enable them to deepen their involvement in the Middle East. Carlucci also believes that in the Reagan administration's final year and in an election year, nobody will devote time to organizing such a conference.

As if all this were not enough, the Soviet ambassador at the United Nations has now surprised us with an unequivocal declaration that the Kremlin insists on the participation of the PLO in a conference, and that this forum can also initiate solutions and exert its influence in their implementation. The meaning: to impose a political solution on us. This, of course, contradicts all the reassuring words of Shim'on Peres that the Soviets will come to the conference only to raise a champagne goblet.

In addition to all this, it must be added that the commentators who are now gathered in throngs around the summit in Washington believe that in his talks with Gorbachev, Reagan will stress the problem of human rights and especially Soviet Jewry, but that a political settlement in the Middle East will apparently not be discussed at all.

It therefore appears that Pickering today is carrying out a policy that is not even acceptable to his superiors in Washington. They have more urgent concerns. And the style of the ambassador is certainly not acceptable to us. The task of the ambassador is to transfer messages from his government to our government in Jerusalem, and not to conduct a single party policy here that first and foremost serves Husayn's interests. Mr Shamir should make this clear to the ambassador in a one-on-one conversation, which they hold from time to time.

Soviet Official Says Ties With Israel 'Better'

TA100614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] A senior Soviet official says that relations between Israel and the Soviet Union have improved in recent years. Vitaliy Zhurkin, deputy director of U.S. and Canada Studies, was speaking in an interview with the Voice of Israel's correspondent in Washington, Shim'on Schiffer. Zhurkin told Schiffer that there was an attempt to discuss ties at Helsinki, but the Israeli representatives immediately wanted to discuss issues such as emigration, and in his words, this affected a delicate negotiating process.

[Begin recording] [Zhurkin] You know Soviet conditions for the restoration of relations with Israel, because occupation of Arab land is, from our point of view, a major obstacle in the way of restoring these relations. At the same time, maybe smaller moves occurred in the relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, and I think this is one of the international problems which is to be discussed calmly, practically, in a political sense among politicians. So I think it is a problem which is to be discussed.

[Schiffer] For the near future you can't see any possibility that the two countries will have some formal ties?

[Zhurkin] You know, I am very sorry, I don't want to avoid answering this question. But at the same time you know that in order to be able to seriously answer this question you should be the Middle Eastern specialist who should know all the particulars of the situation. I do not know them. But I think that I may only say in a general form that if you compare the situation today in

comparison with what it was 2 or 3 or 4 years ago, I think that there are elements trying to do something. Maybe it's still not so dramatic, because there are conditions, as I said, there are difficulties, there are definite disagreements. I think their attitude toward the international conference on the Middle East is also one of the elements of the disagreement, but nevertheless, if to make a balanced overall comparison, I think the situation today is maybe a little but better than it was several years ago. [end recording]

Hungarians Say Rapprochement To Continue

TA101139 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Dec 87 p A2

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] The process of rapprochement between Hungary and Israel will continue. This was said in messages senior Hungarian Government officials conveyed to Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres over the past few days. The messages were conveyed through Dan Gillerman, president of the Union of Chambers of Commerce, who met with Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers Jozsef Marjai, among others.

Gillerman left for Hungary after Budapest postponed the planned visit of Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon at the last minute.

2 Iranian Defectors Released From Detention

TA101251 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Two Iranian soldiers who fled to Israel from their country were released from the Ayalon lockup facility this morning. One of the two reached Israel 10 months ago and the other 7 months ago. Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports that the extradition order issued against the two by the interior minister expires today. The High Court of Justice issued an order demanding an explanation why the extradition order should not be canceled. In Iran the two soldiers face the death penalty. Their lawyers are currently searching for a place of residence for the two.

'Severe' Riots Break Out in Gaza; Student Shot

Mordekhay Describes Incident

TA091636 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] There were severe riots in the Gaza Strip today. A youth from the Jabalyah refugee camp was shot dead and 16 were wounded after they attacked an IDF patrol which had to resort to firing. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] The center of today's disturbances was the Jabalyah refugee camp. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the officer commanding [OC] the Southern Command, describes this morning's incident.

[Mordekhay] An IDF patrol stopped some people who threw stones at the patrol. There was a gathering, followed by dozens of children and adults charging toward the patrol vehicle. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at the patrol; one hit the vehicle's hood and the other hit its roof. Attempts were also made to set the vehicle on fire, combined with attempts to harm the soldiers. All this was done at short range.

Having no choice, the commander of the patrol, an officer, had to open fire to drive the rioting crowds away and save himself and his subordinates from danger. As a result, a Jabalyah resident was killed. It can be assumed he belonged in the crowd of those who threw Molotov cocktails or stones. Also, several people sustained critical injuries and several others sustained light to moderate injuries.

[Ben-David] Some of the wounded are in serious condition. Some were evacuated to hospitals in Israel with the help of an IDF helicopter. The Jabalyah refugee camp, the site of the incident, has been closed off, but the closure may be extended into a curfew if the disturbances last. Soldiers are stationed around the refugee camp to stem the spread of riots. Intersections are also being safeguarded. A commotion developed at the Al-Shafa'ah Hospital when the body of the victim was brought there. The body was kidnapped and buried by the family at noon. OC Southern Command Yitzhaq Mordekhay hopes that quiet will be preserved.

[Mordekhay] All in all, quiet is returning to the area. I hope it will be unnecessary to open fire or to use fully one kind of measure of another against rioters and against those who try to harm IDF soldiers using Molotov cocktails or other means.

[Ben-David] Maj Gen Mordekhay finds two reasons for the disturbances: the expulsion of a key PLO activist in the Jabalyah camp, and a civilian traffic accident that took place last evening, resulting in the death of four local residents; seven others were injured. This morning's flareup followed rumors spread last night to the effect that the casualties in the accident were intentionally wounded. [end recording]

23 Youths Detained

TA100834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The police have detained 23 youths from Qalandiyah, north of Jerusalem, after they barricaded themselves in the local school and threw stones and bottles at the Jerusalem-Ramallah road. They also hoisted Palestine flags on the school. Our correspondent Moshe

Nussbaum reports that there were several masked youths and students among the barricaded youths. The policemen used tear gas during their entry into the school. The area is calm at present.

Riots Continue 10 Dec

TA101028 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] There were serious disturbances in most Gaza Strip cities today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that five wounded people were taken to the Al-Shafa'ah Hospital in Gaza. Three of them were hit by IDF fire in Khan Yunus after a patrol was attacked with Molotov cocktails. It is still not clear how the other two were wounded.

The disturbances began this morning. Roadblocks were erected and tires were set on fire on many streets in the Gaza Strip. In several places merchants closed down their shops. The security forces are trying to restore order in Gaza with the use of tear gas and rubber bullets.

Further on Incidents

TA101218 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It is now quiet in Qalandiyah, north of Jerusalem, after the arrest this morning of 23 students who hurled stones and injured two policemen and four members of the Border Police. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomi Stein.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT adds: "Five students hurled stones at policemen and were injured by the policemen's clubs. They were transferred to the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem."]

In Judaea and Samaria, a Molotov cocktail was thrown this morning at a bus in Ramallah. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. Several incidents in which stones were thrown and barricades were erected took place in Nabulus and in the Balatah refugee camp.

It was reported a short time ago that four Molotov cocktails were thrown at an IDF patrol in Khan Yunus. There were no casualties.

1 Killed, Officer Wounded

TA101323 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] An inhabitant of Nabulus was killed and an IDF officer was injured when iron bars were thrown in the course of violent disturbances in the center of the city before noon today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF patrol was attacked with iron bars and stones by dozens of youths in the center of the city. An IDF officer was wounded by an iron bar. In order to extricate themselves, the soldiers fired gas bombs and rubber bullets but later, when their lives became endangered, they opened fire on the rioters. As said earlier, a local inhabitant was killed and another was wounded and taken to the hospital.

Another incident took place this morning in the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. In the course of pursuing rioters, a border policeman was stabbed by a woman. The policeman overcame her and she was bruised and taken to the hospital.

This morning, firebombs were thrown at an Israeli bus near Al-Birah and at Israeli vehicles near the Nur al-Shams near Tulkarm.

Molotov Cocktail Thrown Near Ramallah 9 Dec

TA091717 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown this evening at an Israeli vehicle in Al-Birah near Ramallah. The bottle did not catch fire and there were no casualties or damage. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed reports that an IDF force searched the area.

Shamir, Peres, Address Soviet Jewry Rally

TA072022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Ten thousand students gathered at Tel Aviv's Yad Eliyyahu stadium this evening for a rally in support of Soviet Jewish emigration. President Herzog, Prime Minister Shamir, and Foreign Minister Peres addressed the rally, calling for Soviet Jewish emigration to be discussed at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. They also called for the Soviet Union to allow free and direct emigration to Israel. Sabra Chartrand reports:

[Begin recording] The Yad Eliyyahu stadium was filled to capacity by thousands of high school students who came to hear Israel's leaders speak on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Today, Prime Minister Shamir told them, after thousands of Jews demonstrated in Washington D.C. yesterday, no one in the Soviet Union will believe there is division within the Jewish people. The Jewish people are a power and we are no longer a people without an address. [passage omitted]

The citizens of Israel join the Jews in the Soviet Union and the United States, Shamir said, in working for free Soviet Jewish emigration. Addressing Soviet Jews, Shamir said, we'll take you here, we want the whole of the Jewish people in Israel. Shamir told reporters later he was certain concrete changes in Soviet Jewish emigration policy would result from the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Peres praised the American and Soviet leaders for their efforts to reduce nuclear arms and said Israel supported the Washington summit, but said the issue of Soviet Jewry must also be addressed there. The

message we want to send to Soviet Jews is simply, we are with you and you will be with us, he said. Let my people go, Peres shouted. The foreign minister also called on Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev to establish normal diplomatic relations with Israel.

President Herzog told the students the true test of the summit will be in its attitude towards Soviet Jewry. No more gestures, no more tokens, no more declarations of intent, Herzog said, but deeds and actual change in the Soviet authorities' attitude towards Jewish nationality in the USSR. [end recording]

AL-'AWDAH Appeals to Reagan, Gorbachev

TA091919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The editorial staff of the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-'AWDAH sent a letter to President Reagan and to Soviet leader Gorbachev complaining about the violation of human rights in the territories and the administrative detention order issued against Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, the paper's editor. Knesset Member Mati Peled of the Progressive List for Peace charged that Minister Rabin is trampling on the freedom of the press in his decision to place Abu 'Ayyash under administrative detention.

W. Bank Civil Rights Leaders Wary of Gaza Plan

TA091850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Civil rights leaders in the territories have expressed skepticism over the proposal by Foreign Minister Peres to halt settlement and eventually demilitarize the Gaza Strip. They have also called on U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev to include the situation in Gaza in their talks on civil rights at the Washington summit. The Israel League for Human and Civil Rights held a news conference today in Jerusalem. More from reporter David Ze'ev.

[Begin recording] Twenty-four hours earlier, in the very same room at Bet Agron in Jerusalem, the Tehiya Party had called for stiffer penalties against those who commit violent acts, including stone throwing, in the territories. Today the League for Human and Civil Rights held its own news conference on the eve of the international Human Rights Day tomorrow, and to present the Arab case in light of the increasing violence in Gaza over the past couple of months. Two Gaza residents were introduced: a man who said he had been arrested 8 times for no reason, and a 14-year-old girl who is said to have been wounded at her school by Army gunfire. The events at the Jabalyah refugee camp this morning were also raised.

Attorney Felicia Langer is vice president of the Civil Rights League. She voiced limited optimism over the proposal made earlier this week by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in reaction to the violence in the Gaza Strip, that settlements be halted there and that Gaza be eventually demilitarized. [passage omitted] [end recording]

House of Qalqilyah 'Terrorist' Demolished

TA100538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Last night the security forces demolished the house of the terrorist who admitted to having thrown Molotov cocktails at the Moses family's car. The terrorist is Muhammad 'Adil Da'ud of Qalqilyah. The squad to which he belonged is also suspected of having thrown a Molotov cocktail at the Regev family's car approximately 4 months ago. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN091401 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi in the presence of Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade, and supply, in his office at the Prime Ministry today. They discussed the existing relations of cooperation between the two sisterly countries and ways to promote and reinforce them in all fields. The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

Received by King Husayn

JN091944 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. During the meeting, the existing fraternal bilateral relations, areas for bilateral cooperation, and ways to bolster and develop this cooperation in the interests of the two countries' peoples were reviewed. His majesty the king affirmed to the Kuwaiti minister Jordan's support for fraternal Kuwait in its confrontation of the dangers threatening it. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade, and supply; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

Foreign Minister Returns From Far East Visit

JN090750 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Amman yesterday evening after a tour that included Pakistan, the PRC, and Japan. During his travels, he presented messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the leaders of these states on the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit convened in Amman last month.

AL-DUSTUR on Hopes for U.S.-USSR Summit

JN081524 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
8 Dec 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial "About the Two Superpowers' Summit"]

[Text] In the midst of the atmosphere of anticipation permeated with optimism and hope that prevails over most of the world's countries and peoples, the U.S.-Soviet summit is convening to sign the INF agreement, discuss several topical regional issues, and define relations between the two superpowers. It goes without saying that the people of this region hope that international detente will make some progress along the road to settling several intractable crises, chiefly the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian cause, and the bloody conflict in the Gulf.

Despite the fact that the United States has in advance expressed a readiness to submit to discussion with the Soviet side innumerable regional issues along with many other problems, it is evident that the Middle East issue is not a priority for the United States at this summit. This means that a historical hotbed of international tension can remain latent in the region to placate Israel, which occupies the lands of others by force and flouts UN Security Council resolutions.

It seems that the only issue in any way relevant to the Middle East that the summit will discuss is the question of Jewish emigration. The U.S. side is placing this issue at the top of its list of priorities and allotting it an importance that in reality may override that of the historical INF agreement between the two superpowers.

While we join the entire world in following with great interest and concern the activities of the superpower summit and the agreements and treaties that may be concluded, we hope the joint U.S.-Zionist campaign will not influence the declared Soviet stand on the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews. We also hope Moscow will continue to abide by its current Middle East policies, which have enjoyed the Arab nation's respect and appreciation.

AL-RA'Y Examines Objectives of King's Tours

JN081538 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
8 Dec 87 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Husayn's Arab Efforts"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visits to Riyadh and Cairo and before that to Damascus and Baghdad continue the mission which his majesty has pledged to carry out. They are also a continuation of the successes of the extraordinary Amman summit, the summit of accord and reconciliation.

The continuous Jordanian diplomatic activities cover most of the capitals which are concerned with the achievements of the summit. These capitals are also concerned about the hot regional issues. If we link his majesty's blessed efforts with these activities, the Jordanian role will emerge in terms of size and effect in light of our country's position and the pan-Arab responsibility shouldered by our country. This was demonstrated by Jordan's hosting of the summit and chairing of a conference which is considered the most important and most successful Arab conference in the seventies and eighties.

The Jordanian move is now taking place in the name of all Arabs. The purpose of this move is to achieve more Arab solidarity and more mobilization of Arab and international efforts toward the search for a just settlement of the Middle East crisis. It also seeks to put a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war. These three issues constitute King Husayn's and our country's direct, national concern. They are also a pan-Arab concern.

For all this, the Arabs view his majesty's tours and his contacts and consultations with his brothers the Arab leaders with great confidence and hope. Following up the summit results, maintaining its atmosphere and resolutions, and consolidating one effective Arab stand are all geared toward the search for just solutions to regional conflicts. These solutions can only be achieved through mobilizing Arab efforts around the maximum level of solidarity, the maximum level of common action, and the maximum level of talking to the world, its capitals, and our friends in one language.

We hope this objective will be achieved, particularly since this homeland and this nation are targets of more than what we have been exposed to so far. Arab territory and its resources are still subject to various ambitions and this conspiracy will not exclude anyone. The evidence of this is the schemes prepared by Zionism and its allies, as well as the Iranian regime's insistence on aggression and expansion.

The Amman summit proved that we have succeeded in converging before matters reached a point of no return and before it became difficult for us to be confrontational, effective, and able to wage our battles with all weapons and on all levels.

Israeli Attack on Jabaliyah Camp Condemned
JN100928 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
10 Dec 87 pp 1,23

[Editorial: "In the Steps of the Pretoria Racists"]

[Text] In a scene reminiscent of the type of bestial racist crimes committed by the South African Government against the black majority, Israel committed another ugly massacre in Gaza yesterday. This happened when its soldiers opened fire indiscriminately against defenseless civilians, killing in cold blood and wounding scores of citizens who have been groaning under the yoke of the odious military occupation for well over 20 years.

The incident at Jabaliyah Camp yesterday in which 32 Palestinians were killed or wounded is considered one of those acts which could not have been committed without systematic mobilization, deep racist hatred, and clear orders from a higher Israeli authority to kill any Palestinian or Arab at any time.

Therefore, what happened in Gaza yesterday was no surprise to anyone, except the bloody way in which the act was committed, which clearly indicates a new escalation by the Israeli occupation forces. Israel is now expected to follow in the steps of its racist counterpart in South Africa so long as these twin regimes are enjoying the patronage and support of a major power such as the United States.

We condemn the hideous racist crime committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against defenseless citizens in Gaza yesterday. We also urge public opinion, the United Nations, and all nations and organizations to join forces against such a crime and its perpetrators. While doing so, we are fully confident that such bloody crimes are bound to rekindle the fire of anger and resistance in the hearts of our steadfast kinfolk and that all those crimes will backfire on the Zionist occupiers in the only language they understand and use. By that we mean the language of the highest degree to struggle.

Israeli Aircraft Resume Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC091415 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes resumed low-altitude flights over Sidon and the camps this afternoon. They conducted mock raids at 1505, drawing antiaircraft fire. Israeli planes conducted similar raids this morning. Meanwhile, the Palestinian and nationalist positions are now in a state of alert in anticipation of any development.

Mock Raids Continue

NC091501 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes are continuing their reconnaissance flights over Sidon and the camps, over which they are carrying out low-level mock raids. According to information received from the south, the Israeli aircraft are dropping heat balloons to elude antiaircraft fire.

Israeli Attack Expected

NC092020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] According to the Southern News Agency [Wakalat al-Anba' al-Janubiyah], Israeli tanks and armored vehicles were very active inside the occupied border strip today. Additional Israeli military units have also entered the Lebanese border.

Meanwhile, Israeli aircraft staged mock raids over the south amid anticipation and fear of air strikes against the citizens.

Security sources expect the [Israeli] enemy and the [Lahd militia] agents to carry out an attack on positions east of Sidon after information was received that an Israeli armored column entered the Kafr Falus area last night.

Offensive Expected Near Sidon

NC100645 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The AL-SAFIR newspaper cites reliable sources as saying yesterday that precise information has reached Cairo via diplomatic channels that enemy Defense Minister Rabin has held a secret meeting with his military advisers, during which he briefed them on the details of the expected Israeli operation in Lebanon. The same sources added that, according to the information which reached Cairo on Tuesday morning, the expected Israeli offensive against Lebanon will begin east of Sidon. The reports added that the area east of Sidon will represent an axis for an all-out Israeli offensive against southern Lebanon.

Lahd Militia Declares Alert

NC101523 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Agent Lahd's militia declared a state of alert among its ranks this morning. Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation forces have intensified their concentrations and military movements on the line of their deployment from western Al-Biqa' to Jazzin.

In view of this muscle flexing, the resistance men have maintained a state of alert among their ranks.

Palestinian 'General Mobilization'

NC101234 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes resumed their reconnaissance sorties in the south today. The Israeli overflights coincide with an atmosphere of caution and expectation in Palestinian ranks.

A Palestinian military official has declared that the Palestinian organizations have decided to declare a general mobilization in the Sidon area in the wake of reports of an impending all-out Israeli offensive. The official added that he has received information from the PLO command in Tunisia to the effect that the Israeli Army will carry out air, land, and sea attacks against Sidon. This city contains the largest concentration of Palestinians in Lebanon, amounting to 80,000 people. He went on to say that, according to the command's information, the Israeli plan is to isolate Sidon from the rest of the country through two landing operations to the north and east of the city. Air and sea bombardments will take place simultaneously with the two landing operations. Furthermore, tank and infantry forces will launch an attack from Jazzin on the Palestinian camps and villages east of Sidon.

'Violent' Clashes in Beirut's Southern Suburb

NC091549 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] There has been a security setback along the Al-Matahin and Al-Barid axes [in Beirut's southern suburb] since 1630 today. Violent clashes involving the use of all types of artillery, rockets, and machineguns are taking place along these lines, with shells falling on both sides of the contact line [between the two sectors of Beirut] and on the neighboring residential areas.

Syrian Intelligence Blamed for Assassination

NC091737 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The Fatah movement of Yasir 'Arafat has accused the Syrian intelligence services of being behind the assassination of Palestinian official Abu Wa'il. The

incident, the movement said, took place only a few days after the inter-Palestinian clashes near Shatila mosque, which the same services instigated and in which 18 Palestinians were wounded.

Rocket Fired at Syrian Position in West Beirut
NC100731 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] In West Beirut, a rocket was fired at a Syrian post in the Al-Manasifah building in Zuqaq al-Balat. The post was hit accurately but no casualties were reported. Bomb experts say the rocket was fired from a launcher that had been installed on an empty plot of land at the intersection of Al-Manasifah and Salim Salam Streets. The experts think the rocket may have been timed to go off automatically.

Syrians searched the area after the incident and bursts of gunfire were heard. The Liberation Battalion later claimed responsibility for the operation.

Iran 'Amenable' to Ulema Mediation on POW's
NC100919 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
9 Dec 87 p 3

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, returned to Tripoli 2 days ago after attending the conference on holy shrines held in Tehran. He said that the conference, at which issues related to the holy shrines and their security were discussed, was a major development which promoted understanding and cohesion among the participants. He stated that the delegations attending the conference were unanimous in their call for the implementation of Islamic law. [passage omitted]

Concerning the release of the eight Lebanese prisoners of war held in Tehran, Sha'ban said that Iran considers them as guests who deserve to be treated as Muslim soldiers in a Muslim revolution. He pointed out that the revolution has decided to accept the mediation of ulema seeking to release some of the prisoners. Iran, he said, is therefore amenable to the intercession of any of the Egyptian ulema who requests the release of the prisoners or goes to Tehran and asks that they be released into his custody. This stand, he added, is a sign that Iran's esteem for Islam and for Muslim scholars overrides all other considerations.

Mitterrand, Al-Huss Comment on Meeting
JN101332 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Salim al-Huss, acting Lebanese prime minister, has left Paris following a 4-day private working visit during which he was received by President Francois Mitterrand and Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Bernard Raimond. During his stay in Paris, Al-Huss met with Raymond Iddih [self-exiled leader of the Lebanese National Bloc Party].

At the Elysee Palace, the acting Lebanese prime minister and President Mitterrand reviewed the tragic situation in Lebanon. President Mitterrand assured him of France's determination to continue to back Lebanon.

Concerning his meeting with acting Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, President Francois Mitterrand said: I am receiving a representative of one of the most unfortunate countries in the world. President Mitterrand met with Al-Huss for about 50 minutes. He affirmed to him that France has exerted a great deal for the sake of Lebanon and that it is ready to continue to serve this country if so requested.

Al-Huss expressed his thanks to Mitterrand for France's efforts in Lebanon, especially within the framework of the UN forces. He also complained about the deteriorating economic and living conditions in his country. Al-Huss expressed regret over the failure of all attempts to begin a dialogue between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil. He expressed optimism that the present contacts between Washington and Damascus would reactivate the situation toward a settlement.

President Mitterrand said that he had received Al-Huss because he represents Lebanese legitimacy on the one hand, and because he is a Sunni leader on the other. He said: France has established cordial relations with all Lebanese communities and hopes that through such relations, it will be able to contribute toward a national reconciliation in Lebanon. This is because the Elysee believes that the maintenance of security in Lebanon can only be through dialogue and accord among the various religious communities in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Reportedly Warns Israel Via Romania

JN091658 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 8 Dec 87 pp 2, 23

[Excerpt] Romanian Foreign Ministry sources have revealed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Syria has warned Israel through Romania against the consequences of carrying out any military operation against it in retaliation for the glider operation in the Galilee. The Romanian sources added that the Romanian ambassador to Israel the night before last delivered urgent messages from President Ceausescu to enemy Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres containing the strongly-worded Syrian warning which President al-Asad had communicated to the Romanian president during the two leaders' recent talks in Bucharest.

According to the Romanian sources, Syria has warned Israel that if it undertakes any military strike against Syrian targets or centers on the Golan Heights or in Lebanon, Syria's military reply will be decisive and strong. Syria will not hesitate in waging an all-out war against Israel and will teach it a lesson it will never forget.

The sources said the Syrian warning implied that Syria will wage war against Israel with sophisticated strategic weapons never used before and it will turn Israel into rubble. The Romanian sources noted that this is the first time since the 1982 Lebanese war that Syria has addressed a strong warning to Israel. [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar Talks With Soviet Ambassador

JN101212 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, 10 Dec [SANA]—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Aleksandr Dzasokhov, USSR ambassador in Damascus. Talks revolved around relations between the two fraternal countries and the proposals to implement the program of cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU, as well as issues of mutual concern.

Ba'th Party Condemns South African Sentence

JN091447 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Statement by "responsible source" in Ba'th Party National Command Foreign Relations Office dated 9 December]

[Text] The courts of the racist regime in South Africa have endorsed the death sentence imposed on six young African strugglers, as well as prison terms on several others. The racist regime had accused them of playing a principal role in the upheaval there in December 1984. At that time, the African masses protested against the imposition of a new constitution enshrining racial discrimination and further restricting the freedom of the Africans in favor of the ruling white minority.

The group of six, whom the racist regime intends to execute, includes a young woman. This is the first woman to be sentenced to death in South Africa.

While vehemently condeming this odious massacre that the South African authorities intend to commit against these young people struggling for their people's legitimate rights, the Ba'th Party National Command calls on world public opinion and all international organizations to act to prevent the racist regime from adding a new crime to the series it has been committing and from pursuing its liquidation of the militant elements in South Africa.

The Ba'th Party National Command also reiterates its firm solidarity with the just struggle of the South African people against odious racial discrimination and its support for the African majority's exercise of their right to self-determination.

Paper Lauds U.S.-USSR Arms Agreement

JN100818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Dec 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arab Cause and the New International Atmosphere," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: The USSR and the United States, on the highest level of responsibility, have signed a decisive historic treaty. Under this treaty, both parties will be committed to the destruction of all short-range and intermediate-range missiles, their launching equipment, and all accessory installations in stages during a period not exceeding 3 years.

Undoubtedly, this signing has created great satisfaction not only in Europe, from which the missiles will be removed, but in the whole world. Everyone in the world viewed this event as a beginning for the two superpowers' departure from a state of collision. The Reagan administration adopted the policy of confrontation in an attempt to achieve military superiority over the USSR and the socialist states and also to address everyone from a position of strength and superiority.

Such a departure should be received with satisfaction and should be welcomed by everyone. This includes the Arabs and all people struggling for their freedom, independence, and progress, as well as for removing all sorts of old and new colonialism and all forms of exploitation and hegemony.

International detente is important for the removal of the nuclear horror. Given this fact, we believe complete detente can only be achieved by disarming the aggressor,

paralyzing him on an international level, and forcing him to respect both the UN resolutions and peoples' right to freedom, independence, and self-determination.

Papers View Terrorism Conference, Summit
JN091015 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The International Support for the Stands of Al-Asad's Syria," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: When leader Al-Asad called for an international conference to distinguish between terrorism and peoples' struggle for liberation, the world received this leading call with great interest and seriousness. This call has been translated into an international resolution adopted by the United Nations by a majority vote. Although observers considered this resolution as a victory for Syria, it is actually a victory for all peoples who are struggling against all forms of colonialism and resolutely confronting the schemes of hegemony planned and carried out by imperialist forces and their allies.

The paper stresses: International efforts should focus on holding the required international conference to distinguish between terrorism, be it individual or state terrorism, and the legitimate struggle of all persecuted peoples. This demand is now an urgent need in light of the attempts to confuse terrorism with struggle, attempts which try to depict any form of legitimate struggle against the forces of invasion and occupation as useless terrorism.

The paper adds: These attempts have taken and are taking place at a time when the world is witnessing daily organized terrorist acts carried out by the Zionist occupiers of Arab territory against our steadfast people who adhere to their rights and reject occupation.

Concluding, the paper says: International support for Syria's militant stands is a victory for the will of peoples who aspire for freedom. It is also a defeat for the evil and tyrant forces. Victory is always at the side of strugglers.

Under the headline "The Zionist Blackmail," the newspaper TISHRIN says: With the convocation of the Soviet-U.S. summit, Washington is witnessing clear Zionist moves to blackmail the Soviet stands. The Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question are supposed to be among the important issues on the summit agenda. However, world Zionism wants the conference to be confined to discussing the expansion of Soviet Jews' immigration to Israel on the pretext of human rights, as if the Soviet Jew were deprived of his rights and the Palestinian people's rights were guaranteed.

The paper wonders: What about the Palestinian people who were expelled from their land and who are under the Zionist occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? What about Jerusalem which Israel annexed in accordance with a Knesset decision? What about the Syrian citizens in the Golan heights? World Zionism, which masters hypocrisy and the forging of historical facts, does not say a word in this regard.

However, it uses its partner in the strategic alliance, the United States, to cover its criminal acts and the policy of annihilating peoples. What about the injured Lebanon which is suffering a great deal from Israel's interference in its affairs and from its occupation of part of its south? Here also there is no consideration for human rights and peoples' rights.

The paper stresses: The two strategic allies, the United States and Israel, are undoubtedly behind all the catastrophes of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the region's states. They are also behind all the tragedies of several peoples in Africa and Latin America. There is strong cooperation between Israel and South Africa. Israel is also entrusted with supplying the Latin American dictatorships with weapons in the interest of Washington and its aggressive policies.

At a time when the world is applauding the summit meeting, greeting the USSR's peace proposals, and aspiring for a clear relaxation in international relations, Israel is mobilizing its forces and announcing it might delay its retaliatory aggression against the Arabs until after the summit in accordance with a U.S. request. This means the aggression has only been postponed for a while.

Concluding, the paper says: The Soviet-U.S. summit should deal with the hotbeds of tension in the whole world, ending the Zionist and fascist evils and entrenching peoples' rights to their freedom, sovereignty, and self- determination, because peace is an indivisible whole. Peoples do not expect from the USSR, which is known for its support for just causes and its defense of these causes, anything other than rejection of the imperialist-Zionist attempts to eliminate these causes. The USSR has never submitted to blackmail and its stands gain great world support. The USSR will continue to support the just Arab cause.

U.S., Israeli Stand on Terrorism 'Exposed'
JN091606 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The UN General Assembly has voted with a majority of 153 votes for the initiative launched by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on convening a UN-sponsored international conference to define the concept of terrorism and distinguish between terrorism and peoples' liberation struggles. Only the United States and Israel have chosen to stand against this overwhelming majority of UN members, which rarely voice a unanimous stand on a draft resolution at the UN General Assembly.

This new U.S. stand against the overwhelming majority of the UN members is reminiscent of previous U.S. stands at the United Nations in defense of the aggressions, wars, and terrorist acts perpetrated by Israel. The United States has always stood alone and isolated in voting against draft resolutions condemning Israel's aggression, terrorist acts, and defiance of UN resolutions and the principles of the UN Charter.

This new U.S. stand at the UN General Assembly is also reminiscent of well known stands taken by the U.S. Administration at the UN Security Council. The United States' use of the veto has rendered ineffective draft resolutions adopted by the majority to condemn Israel's aggressive and terrorist acts and crimes—including highjacking planes and taking hostages—and to make measures to put UN resolutions on the Middle East and Palestine into effect.

It may be understandable for the Israeli Government to take a stand against the idea of convening a conference to define the concept of terrorism, as Israel is the state that is perpetrating official state terrorism against individuals, peoples, and also against states, employing regular forces and gangs formed by government agencies. However, it is not understandable to see the U.S. Government stand against the idea of convening a UN-sponsored international conference to define the concept of terrorism, considering that it is the government constantly claiming that it combats and rejects terrorism, forgetting that it perpetrates actions that contravene U.S. law, not to mention international law, under the guise of combating terrorism.

Of these actions, we mention the highjacking of civilian planes in international airspace, such as the highjacking of the Egyptian plane, and kidnapping persons in international waters, as happened to the Lebanese citizen Yunus in Mediterranean waters.

The U.S. Government's stand on the idea of convening a conference to define the concept of terrorism is not understandable at all, as it is the party that is making a big fuss about Abu Nidal, turning his issue into a topic affecting its relations with some states, and depicting the stand toward him and toward the presence of some of his followers in some Lebanese areas as a criterion governing its stand toward terrorism.

The contradiction in the U.S. stand is obvious and has been exposed. The United States' talk on combating terrorism actually seeks to defend the official and individual terrorism being perpetrated by Israel and some secret U.S. organs and their agents in various parts of the world.

Otherwise, how can a state be against terrorism and reject the idea of convening a conference on combating terrorism and defining its concept? And how can a state be against terrorism and simultaneously establish camps and schools to graduate, train, and prepare terrorists, including those who downed an Indian plane carrying hundreds of passengers? How can a state be against terrorism and at the same time provide all types of material and moral support to those who are perpetrating terrorism against a whole people and an entire region; namely, the Israeli rulers who are perpetrating terrorism on a daily basis against a 1 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The U.S. and Israeli rulers have exposed to the world the reality of their stand toward terrorism and with their own hands foiled the pretexts used in the criminal and unjust campaign they have been launching against Syria since the beginning of this year.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Expose New Weapons Used by Soviets

DW091115 Bonn DIE WELT in German
9 Dec 87 p 5

[Walter H. Rueb article: "New Weapons in Afghanistan"]

[Excerpt] Bonn—Alarming news that discredits such Kabul slogans as "cease-fire" and "national reconciliation," and Moscow's withdrawal plans has been brought to Europe by an Afghan resistance member from the north of the Soviet-occupied country. "In northern border provinces, the fighting is so intense that many Soviet villages have been evacuated on the other side of the Amu Darya river," reported Muhammad Omar Khalid to the European Hezb-e Eslami office in Bonn after his return from an almost 3-month visit to Balkh Province and its capital Mazar-e-Sharif.

"The Soviets have been using weapons and ammunition for some time that are new and unknown. They fire bullets, for example, that decay and decompose the body of the person they hit. Thus, they try to destroy the Islam belief in martyrdom of a person fallen in the holy war, knowing that it is difficult for us to consider the decaying corpse as the remains of a martyr..."

According to Khalid, the Soviets also use bombs that explode only at certain noises, and bombs that explode in the air into sharp nails. "The Soviets also operate more and more at night," Khalid added. "They fire flares to make it as light as day, blinding the mujahidin, because they have no protective glasses as do the Soviets."

Khalid reports, however, that the morale of the guerrillas remains good. Material government inducements to lay down arms, such as clothing and foodstuffs, are being rejected. Khalid said: "Instead of achieving a cease-fire, Kabul is achieving the opposite. It is increasing the mujahidin's preparedness to fight." [passage omitted]

PDRY Delegation Arrives on Visit 7 Dec

LD072153 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 7 Dec 87

[Text] A YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] Central Committee delegation led by Mr 'Umar 'Ali, Central Committee member and YSP Central Committee secretary, arrived in Kabul today at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee. It was greeted at Kabul International Airport by the official responsible for the PDPA documents and relations department and a representative who deals with international relations.

According to another report, the delegation met with Sayyed Nasratollah, who is in charge of party documents and relations, in his office. The delegation also met with Abdorrahim Basam, a party official who deals with international relations, in his office and talked about consolidating relations between the two parties.

Grand Assembly Message to Perez de Cuellar

LD100913 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT
10 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 9, BAKHTAR—The Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) of the representatives of Afghanistan, along with endorsement of the historic document [Constitution], expressed not only their deep desire the message released here for the immediate solution of domestic problems, but also for the basic normalization of international atmosphere and a world void of nuclear weapons and tyranny. [sentence as received]

In the message addressed to the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by the participants of the Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly, of Afghanistan said that despite the policy of intimidation and the most harsh methods employed by the border gendarmerie and even acts of bloodshed by official authorities of Pakistan and Iran, more than 120 rpt 120 thousand of our compatriots have returned home. We are well-aware that the absolute majority of refugees would like to come back home, but the authorities of Pakistan and Iran openly hamper their return. We draw attentions of world community to these inhuman acts, adds the message. It causes the indignation and hatred that some of the Western countries continue their policy of instigation and support the extremists and do everything to create obstacles in implementing the policy of national reconciliation. They do not let peace and security be established in our long-suffering homeland. These acts are open violation of the Charter of the United Nations and accepted norms of international law, the message says.

With profound belief in the victory of justice, we request you to convey our message, i.e., the invitation for peace, progress, stability and security of the world to all peoples of the world. We firmly believe that your authority as secretary general of the United Nations can play an important role in mobilizing world public for support of the just cause of the people of Afghanistan. We hope that the United Nations will help us in achieving the humane objectives of national reconciliation as well as in establishing peace in our country, the message notes.

Grand Assembly Sends Message to Citizens

LD100916 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT
10 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 9, BAKHTAR—The historic and traditional Loya Jirgah of the country asks the Afghans to act with unity and cohesion, and translate into practice the principles and norms of the Constitution of the country that is in full conformity with the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam, says the message which was released here to the people of Afghanistan.

"The homeland is our common home. Return to the homeland of your ancestors. Forget hostility, rancour and revenge-taking, and imbue your hearts with peace, Islamic brotherhood and pleasures", says the message addressing the Afghan people living abroad.

The socio-economic growth of the country needs dedicated work of all citizens of the country, including workers, peasants, national enterpreneurs, craftsmen and all honourable working Muslim people. And only with their joint efforts, the calamities emanating from war can be eliminated, and the advancement of the country in the way of progress and blossoming ensured.

The policy of national reconciliation would provide favourable conditions for the expansion of initiatives and creative socio-economic activities of all true patriots, the message notes.

Land is the national wealth of all people and the source of life. The land and water relations shall be regulated in the interests of all toiling strata and classes of Afghanistan and on the basis of the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and national traditions, and would result in real possibilities for the effective use of manpower and existing lands.

Under the present conditions, the obligations of serving the religion and the great historic mission of establishment of peace are assigned to the patriotic clergymen, in accordance with the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam, directives of the holy Koran. The new Constitution of the country would provide more possibilities for performing and observing the religious rites and religious freedoms for all citizens of Afghanistan, says the message.

The flourishing of the culture of the people, observance of favourite customs and traditions and the development of languages of nationalities residing in Afghanistan, are possible only in conditions of peace.

Presidential Decree Releases 515 Prisoners

LD092252 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Under the presidential decree of 30 November 1987, 515 prisoners have been released from the central prison and the jails of Farah and Balkh Provinces.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that 260 people have been released from the central prison of Pol-e Charkhi, 196 from the Balkh prison and 59 from the Farah prison. Those released have expressed their support for the decisions and resolutions of the historic Grand Assembly under which they were set free and their remaining terms pardoned. They asserted that they would not hold back any attempt by the popular sovereignty to implement national reconciliation.

Extremist 'Satanical Design' Foiled in Sarowbi

LD092233 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] A satanical design by extremists, who wanted to disrupt traffic along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway by destroying a bridge in the Sarowbi District of Kabul Province, was foiled. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that 210 kg of explosives placed under the bridge in Sarowbi District were discovered by the security forces and seized before it resulted in a catastrophe.

Nangarhar, Herat Plots Foiled

LD092257 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that two groups of extremists who, after crossing the border, intended to engage in bloodshed in villages in Nangarhar and Herat Provinces, were recently crushed by the border security forces. Three of them were captured.

The report states that recently the border units of these regions heard of the foul intentions of the extremists, discovered them on time, and surrounded them. The security forces asked them to surrender to the border forces, but the extremists did not surrender and opened fire on the security personnel. In order to prevent the crimes of the extremists, the security forces engaged in reciprocal action, as a result of which 3 extremists were captured, along with 13 assorted weapons, ammunition, and a radio.

Mujahidin Missile Attack in Qandahar Reported

BK091614 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin launched missile attacks on the headquarters of (word indistict) in Qandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan, killing or wounding 90 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. The mujahidin also fired rockets on a customs office from the security post outside. The customs office was destroyed.

Bangladesh

Minister Gupta Seriously Wounded in Bombing

BK100148 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Textiles Minister Sunil Gupta was seriously injured when two bombs were hurled at his car near the Foreign Office in Dhaka yesterday. The police said the incident occurred when the minister was returning to his residence from office. Broken windscreen and splinters of the bomb hit him in his left chest, shoulder, and face.

He was immediately admitted to the P.G. Hospital where he was operated upon for removal of the splinters. Doctors described the condition of the minister as stable and out of danger. A [member of the] personal staff of the minister was also injured.

Press Release Notes Special Tribunal

BK091558 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] A press release of the Dhaka metropolitan police says persons arrested for creating terror, anarchy, and bombing will be tried by a special tribunal. Police have so far arrested many bomb throwers from different places of the metropolitan areas, and cases have been filed against them under the Explosive Act. The metropolitan police have also issued long-term detention orders against the arrested persons under the Special Powers Act. Seventy-four cases were filed under the Explosive Act in Dhaka metropolitan city during the last 3 months and on completion of investigation against fifteen cases, charge sheets have been made against the alleged persons. The Explosive Act provides for the maximum punishment of death penalty for the convicted persons.

Ershad Views Current Situation With Editors

BK091511 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Dec 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Monday said the Parliament has been dissolved to clear the way for holding fresh polls to get electoral mandate on various national issues including the Constitution, reports BSS.

He pointed out that as elected President he had no mandate of the electorate to bring about any changes in the Constitution and said from the very day he was vested with the responsibility of running the affairs of the country he had been telling the nation to arrive at a national consensus through discussions on national issues.

President Ershad was speaking to the editors of national dailies, news agencies and weeklies at Banga Bhavan.

The President said he would always uphold and protect the Constitution and added that all the measures taken, including proclamation of emergency in the backdrop of recent political developments, were strictly according to the provisions of the Constitution. He said all these measures are temporary and will be lifted as soon as possible to create a congenial atmosphere for holding of elections.

President Ershad said he had been taking steps, including release of political detenues, to pave the way for holding dialogue to resolve the political problems. He said the two leaders of the opposition alliances would be released soon.

He asserted that emergency would not be there a day more than necessary.

He said questions raised by the two main opposition alliances were at variance on various settled constitutional issues, including the four basic principles. He said the Constitution can only be amended through electoral mandate and by no other means. He had no mandate to deviate from the Constitution.

In this context, the President said he believed in the Constitution in its present form, which has come to its existing shape through phases and election verdicts. He said he and his party were firmly committed to the fundamental principles of the Constitution as they stand now and would never compromise on this.

The dissolved Parliament had no mandate to bring about any change in these matters.

President Ershad said as elected President entrusted with the responsibility of upholding the Constitution, he could not give in to pressure to change the basic principles of the Constitution. He said he stands by the provision incorporating "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" [peace be upon you] in the preamble of the Constitution.

He said he would continue his efforts to sustain the constitutional process and hand over power to the elected Government as per the provision laid down in the Constitution.

The President expressed his optimism that all concerned would arrive at a consensus, through dialogue, for holding the polls and through that they would decide the modality of ensuring free and fair elections.

He said as democratic leaders backed by their political prudence and patriotism, the two leaders of the two alliances would surely come to a point for agreeing to take measures aimed at freeing the nation from political deadlock and uncertainty.

President Ershad said on the very first day of coming to power he had announced his policy of giving institutional shape to democracy with the consent of the electorate and as per the provisions of the Constitution.

This was also necessary for stability to sustain economic progress, he said adding, so he had been advocating resolution of national issues raised by different quarters, through consensus.

The president said elected representatives of the people are the right persons to a work out consensus on all basic questions including political and economic issues and state affairs and with that end in view he had made Parliament the centre of all national activities. He said it was the Parliament which had unanimously passed a resolution on freeing Dhaka University of arms and introducing Bangla at all levels.

He said this gave ample proof that for national causes all quarters can come together. In this context, he referred to the sending back of Zila Parishad bill to the House for its reconsideration after it was passed by the Sangsad [Parliament], to ensure the authority of the Parliament.

Tracing the democratic process initiated by him which led to the establishment of last Sangsad, President Ershad said about 28 political parties took part in the last general elections while some others stayed away. Those who came to the Parliament in the Opposition Bench did not cooperate to strengthen the Sangsad on the one hand and those who stayed out of the polls have been demanding fresh elections on the other.

He said at last, the major opposition in the parliament, the Awami League, through a memorandum circulated to the press announced their decision not to sit in the House.

The President said all these actions on the part of political parties had created a situation in which there was no longer any utility of the Parliament. This had necessitated the dissolution of the Sangsad to pave the way for holding fresh polls to seek people's verdict.

He said the Awami League and its political allies wanted to return to the constitutional form as it was before the Fourth Amendment which they had earlier brought about. "How the Constitution which had reached its present form through long years of trial could be returned to pre-Fourth Amendment stage without getting the verdict of the electorate on the matter?" he asked.

But, he said, if any party gets peoples verdict for bringing about basic changes in the Constitution, he would accept it.

President Ershad said the nation earned independence through great sacrifices and the people wanted to see democracy strike its root in the country and ensure economic progress. He said the path of terrorism goes against the very concept of independence, sovereignty, economic progress and social advancement.

He said terrorism and arson could not be allowed to go on unabated nor could the nation be held hostage to these phenomenon to press any political decision outside the purview of the constitutional process.

The president asked how could any sensible person accept such acts as uprooting of rail tracts as democratic. Such acts only threatened people's lives. Anybody who had feeling for the welfare of the people and love for the country could not resort to such activities.

Replying to a question, President Ershad said as per the Constitution, elections to the Parliament are required to be held within ninety days after its dissolution. He reiterated that he wants to solve the present political problem through discussions and said there was no last word in politics.

He said the last Parliament held three sessions and all members participated in the proceedings. On various national issues, members reached consensus in the House, he said and wondered what had happened suddenly that made the parliamentary opposition to take the stand not to attend the House.

To another question, he said acts of terrorism had decreased substantially after the proclamation of emergency. Now it was the social responsibility of all to stand unitedly to end all acts of terrorism.

President Ershad, in this connection, mentioned the setting up of a tribunal to try persons responsible for terrorist activities and said such trial would start soon.

He expressed the hope that the opposition would shun the path of unconstitutional politics and as patriots would reach a consensus through dialogue to tide over the present political problem.

As to the release of the two leaders of the two alliances, the President said, the leaders will be released very soon. Maybe sooner than you expect, he said.

On the demand for his resignation, he said he has been elected as per the Constitution. If anything has to be done in this regard, then 8th Amendment has to be brought in, he said.

He said he would do everything possible within the purview of the Constitution to pave the way for solving the present political problem and if consensus was reached he was ready to consider the holding of presidential election.

To another question as to the involvement of political parties in terrorist acts, President Ershad said those who are involved in such acts are not members of any major political party.

He informed the editors that the Government had already started discussion with the political parties on resolving the present political problems and hoped formal discussion would commence after the release of the two leaders. He said the Government would invite the leaders formally for discussion across the table.

As for the Government plan to release BBC correspondent Ataus Samad, the President said, "you will get the good news very soon. Maybe in a day or two."

Labour and Manpower and Information Minister Anwar Zahid, Education Minister Mahbubur Rahman and Information Secretary Nurunnabi Chowdhury were present during the meeting.

India

Leftist Rally Demands Gandhi Government Resign

BK091329 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] A massive rally by left parties was held in New Delhi today to highlight some of the major problems faced by the people, including price rise, unemployment, and threat to national unity.

AIR correspondent reports that thousands of people, who arrived in the capital from different parts of the country, marched to the Boat Club lawn from Red Fort in a big procession.

Addressing the rally, leaders demanded the resignation of the government and holding a fresh election for, what they called, its failure to solve people's problems. They criticized the economic policies of the government. The leaders cautioned the people against the evil designs of communal forces which are bent upon destroying the unity of the country. They called for an opposition unity of all secular and democratic forces to provide a national alternative.

Those who spoke included Mr B.P. Ranedeva and Mr Jyoti Basu, CPI-M; Mr Joti Chakraverty, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party]; Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI; and Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc. They later adopted a 13-point resolution demanding, among other things, restructuring center-state relations, remunerative prices to farmers, minimum wages, and land reform.

Lok Sabha Receives Report on Fairfax Inquiry

BK091345 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The Thakkar-Natarajan Commission of Inquiry has said that the engagement of Fairfax group was not consistent with the security of India. A copy of the report was laid on the table of the Lok Sabha today by the minister of state for finance, Mr B.K. Gadhvi. It says that the entire episode reveals a sorry state of affairs of operations shrouded in secrecy and surrounded by mysterious circumstances.

The commission observes that the entire episode was conducted by certain officials without the knowledge of the government or the prime minister.

In this context the commission describes the situation in the Finance Ministry under Mr V.P. Singh as prima facie intolerable.

The report says meetings took place in hotels and public parks. Oral talks took place of which no written record was made in any file even subsequently, let alone making a contemporaneous record.

Parliament Discusses 'No Confidence Motion'

BK100941 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha has begun discussion on the opposition-sponsored no confidence motion against the Council of Ministers headed by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. This is the first no confidence motion against Mr Gandhi's government.

Soon after the question hour the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, announced that he had received three identical notices of no confidence motion from several opposition members. As the notice given by Mr Madhav Reddy, Telugu Desam, came first in the ballot, the speaker asked the members to rise to show whether they support it. More than 50 members stood up in its support and the discussion was taken up immediately. The prime minister and most of his Council of Ministers were present in the House at that time.

Initiating the discussion, Mr Madhav Reddy, criticized the prime minister for his style of functioning and alleged that he is following a policy of confrontation rather than cooperation with the non-Congress-I chief ministers. Mr Reddy charged the government with failure on several fronts. He alleged that the government mishandled the drought relief, which has resulted in worsening of the economic situation. The member also alleged that the external debt burden has increased, the balance of payment position deteriorated, unemployment is mounting, and the government has failed to bring about electoral reforms.

Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad, Congress-I, refuted all the allegations and charged the opposition with indulging in tactics to destabilize the country. He regretted that instead of offering constructive criticism, the opposition tried to mislead the country on issues like Fairfax and Bofors. He said the Thakkar-Natarajan Commission has clearly concluded that engagement of the Fairfax was a danger to the national security. Even the prime minister and the Cabinet were not consulted on the question of engaging this agency.

The discussion is continuing.

Gandhi Interviewed on Foreign, Domestic Issues

JN070755 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
3 Dec 87 pp 2, 3, 6

[Interview with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by Mahfuz al-Anzari, editor in chief of AL-JUMHURIYAH, in New Delhi; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Prime Minister, Egypt and India are connected by deep-rooted historical relations. However, the volume of economic, trade, and cultural

cooperation does not reflect the size and strength of these relations. What is your opinion and concepts regarding the expansion and diversification of this cooperation?

Gandhi: Well, I am convinced that together we can do many things in various domains. I have cordial and friendly relations with President Mubarak and we are looking forward to his visit to India in order to have an intensive discussion of all issues. I have extended an invitation to President Mubarak to visit our country and he has accepted it. We hope to see him in India soon. We are looking forward to his visit because, as I said earlier, there are great prospects for cooperation and many fields of joint action. There are many joint ventures that our two countries can establish not only in the commercial field but also in the fields of technology, industry, and scientific research.

In the past we cooperated in some areas and established the tripartite Egyptian-Indian-Yugoslav Committee. However, the important thing is that there is much that requires our joint efforts and action . [passage omitted]

Question: The Amman summit adopted a number of important resolutions, the most prominent of which concerns the restoration of ties with Egypt. What is your opinion of these resolutions?

Gandhi: We consider the Amman Arab summit decisions, particularly the Arab states' decision to restore ties with Egypt, as good and positive. We feel that the Arab world should stand together. The restoration of ties with Egypt will restore strength to the Arab world through complete unity and reunion. The Arab world's source of strength is its unity. [passage omitted]

Question: With regard to the Gulf war, and following the Iranian foreign minister's visit to New Delhi, can we say that you will succeed where others have failed to resolve the problem?

Gandhi: I begin my answer by affirming that until this moment we have not offered to mediate or intervene. We believe that the UN secretary general's initiative is a positive one and we all must support it. For our part, we support it.

Both sides are moving in the direction outlined by the initiative. These moves are positive but not enough. Further positive steps are required.

At the same time, we find for the first time a ready oportunity. However, this does not mean that we are close to a solution. UN Resolution 598 is a good one, a step forward, a comprehensive resolution. Still, we need much effort in this direction.

Perhaps the difficulty with regard to Resolution 598 is that neither side was consulted before its adoption. This resulted in the creation of some problems in the resolution's structure. However, these problems are not intractable.

Moreover, each side has some problems concerning its understanding and position on the solution. Iraq wants an immediate and unconditional cease-fire and Iran wants the aggressor named and punished. Each side continues to adhere to its position.

I think we can end the deadlock through a skillful formulation of a solution acceptable to both sides. At the same time, we must remember that Article 5 of Resolution 598 stipulates that foreign forces must be withdrawn from the area of conflict when the resolution is implemented. This article must be discussed and implemented with the other articles. [passage omitted]

Question: If you do not mind, Mr Prime Minister, let us move to a more sensitive topic; namely, deployment of the Indian military in Sri Lanka. Will Sri Lanka become India's Vietnam, Egypt's Yemen, and Syria's Lebanon?

Gandhi: No, I do not think so. Our Army's mission in Sri Lanka is different from the examples you cited. Sri Lanka is not India's Vietnam. The circumstances are much too different. In Sri Lanka, the Tamil community supports our forces; only one group of Tamil fighters, the Tamil Tigers, are opposed to us. The rest of the Tamil community is giving the Indian Army every possible assistance and support.

Question: Do you have a date for the withdrawal of the Indian Army from Sri Lanka?

Gandhi: An Indian pullout is up to President Jayawardene of Sri Lanka and subject to a return to normalcy there. An Indian pullout must also await the elections set for December in the predominantly Tamil Eastern and Northern Provinces. After the polls, a local government reflecting the popular will is to take over.

Question: Is the presence of Indian forces governed by a time limit according to the agreement with the Sri Lankan Government?

Gandhi: The agreement did not provide for a timeframe. It set an election date—December—and left other issues to be decided by the situation as it develops on the ground. Let us hope the parties will respond to our cease-fire initiative. Let us hope the Tamil Tigers will respond positively so that the situation can quickly return to normal. [passage omitted]

Question: What is the state of your relations with the PRC? How do you rate the chances for a border settlement following the recent visit to India by a Chinese delegation?

Gandhi: We have held several rounds of talks with the Chinese, the most recent in New Delhi being the eighth round. For the first time in our talks with the Chinese, we went beyond bilateral ties to discuss global issues as well. Undoubtedly, the border problem is highly important with each party holding its own views. Both parties are interested in reaching a settlement, yet realize the difficulties involved in seeking an acceptable resolution. The long history of the situation, along with strong sentiments, affect the positions of both parties.

However, there is also the will. I am confident both parties want to overcome the obstacles. I feel we can solve the outstanding problems and move forward.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, India's stand on nuclear weapons is amazing. It is against nuclear weapons and at the same time it refuses to sign the nonproliferation treaty. Moreover, India calls for nuclear disarmament and simultaneously threatens to manufacture a nuclear bomb to confront Pakistan. Can you explain this stand, and how can we understand this difficult Indian equation?

Gandhi: Let us begin with India's refusal to sign the nonproliferation treaty. We did not sign this treaty for two reasons:

1. Because it is a treaty biased toward those who possess nuclear weapons and does not favor those who do not possess them. We would not allow ourselves to sign such a discriminatory treaty.

2. Because all of the nuclear states that signed this treaty always violate it, particularly regarding radiation, tests, and explosions.

Thus, we are faced with a biased and discriminatory treaty based on discrimination between the haves and the have nots. Moreover, we are faced with a treaty that is being violated by those who signed it willingly and those who insist on and exert pressure on others to force them to sign it.

On the other hand, we have announced our free will and our sincere decision not to produce nuclear weapons. Through this decision, we have gone far beyond what the treaty wants. We were able to produce nuclear weapons a long time ago. However, we did not produce them, not because of the restrictions imposed on us or due to a lack of scientific and material capabilities. Our decision was based on our belief that nuclear weapons pose a danger to humanity and that they must be eliminated in the world. These are our thoughts and principles. Nevertheless, what I have just said is one thing and what I will say is another. I should add that there are several problems we must examine.

We have lived with the Chinese bomb for several years without feeling that we must produce our own. However, today we are not sure that we can do the same thing and adopt the same stand toward the Pakistani bomb.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, allow me to interrupt you. I am afraid that I may have misunderstand your stand toward the Pakistani bomb. Would you explain this further?

Gandhi: I say again that we have lived with the Chinese bomb for 20 years. However, I cannot ascertain if we will be able to live with the Pakistani bomb. We had several wars with Pakistan and all of these wars were the result of Pakistan's provocations. This is the question, and this is what we are worried about. Therefore, we must choose to protect our nation. It is a difficult decision and we know this. That is why we tried to explain the situation to Pakistan's friends to convince them to stop Pakistan from making nuclear weapons and to prevent it from continuing its nuclear program.

I recently met with the Pakistani prime minister during the South Asian states' summit and explained to him our deep concern over their nuclear program, particularly the huge amounts of enriched uranium they produce which can only be used in military fields. The Pakistanis have a small reactor which uses limited amounts of enriched uranium. When I told him these huge amounts can only be used in the military field, he did not give me an answer.

I will tell you another story that confirms what we believe. Less than a year ago, a Pakistani scientist made a statement to an Indian journalist. This scientist works with the Pakistani nuclear program team. In his statement he said Pakistan had made its own nuclear bomb. It actually possesses nuclear weapons now. However, after this statement was released, Pakistan denied the scientist's remarks. In fact, it said his statement was completely baseless. However, the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN confirmed the statement.

Pakistan's nuclear program is essentially military; all indications point in that direction. The facilities are highly secret and, in contrast to the Indian program, their new sites are unknown. India's nuclear program is open and may be debated by the country's Parliament. It is also accessible to visitors. Our program was undertaken by Indian scientists, whereas the Pakistani program is shrouded in secrecy. There have been disclosures in the West about the attempted smuggling of equipment and technology by Pakistanis, the most recent being in the United States. As long as we are dealing with the nuclear issue, we must all look ahead. Nuclear weapons know no borders or barriers; there is no stopping radiation at border points. It is no longer possible to confine arms to one area, or to declare a particular location nuclear free.

Question: If I may say so, Mr Prime Minister, this attitude runs counter to India's traditional stand urging nuclear free zones beginning with the Indian Ocean.

Gandhi: I was about to come to this point. It is not possible to create a nuclear free zone, practically speaking. The only possibility in this respect is for such a zone to expand and encompass the entire globe. At the same time it would be unrealistic to hope for such an agreement in one fell swoop. You cannot push a button and make the world nuclear free.

We should therefore work toward getting the superpowers to a point beyond the INF—the intermediate and shorter range nuclear missiles agreement—and bring them closer to total, comprehensive nuclear disarmament. We should then proceed to involve the other three nuclear powers—Britain, France, and China—in the disarmament effort. Likewise, they should be joined later by the third level in the nuclear club, specifically those nations with the capacity to produce and manufacture nuclear weapons. We should keep them from becoming proper nuclear powers.

Question: Do you have in mind coercive measures or voluntary restraint?

Gandhi: As far as we are concerned, we have steered clear of the nuclear weapons club of our own volition. Others may want to follow suit. There is no point in the five major nuclear powers—the United States, USSR, Britain, China, and France—disarming themselves while the door remains open to other nations. It is therefore imperative that those who have a nuclear capacity be scrutinized. Our region is bristling with movement and the activities of battleships and submarines laden with nuclear shipments and cargo. Then we have a nuclear power—China—on our northern border. All of these facts must be addressed and overcome.

It is equally and possibly more important to remember that Nehru, 'Abd al-Nasir, and Tito discussed nuclear disarmament many years ago. However, the first practical step, the INF, is just now being taken after almost 30 years.

Therefore, from now on we must think about what will follow—and I mean the agreement between Moscow and Washington on medium-range and short-range weapons. We must look far ahead to see what the world will be like when it will be free of nuclear weapons, and how we can contain the pressure.

We must initiate discussion on a nuclear-free world model. Perhaps we can attain such a model by:

—Strengthening the international order, and I mean the United Nations;

—Perhaps what is needed is to draw up new regulations and models that need to be developed and to explore the ways and means of maintaining peace.

What we must work for and aspire to is a world without wars.

Question: Thank you, Mr Prime Minister, for your time and for the opportunity you gave to me.

5 Killed, 1 Injured in Punjab Shooting

BK100349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were shot dead and one injured by terrorists in village (Sarowal) near Sri Hargovindpur in Gurdaspur District last night . An official spokesman said the terrorists came to the village and opened indiscriminate firing. Police and paramilitary forces have launched a massive combing operation in the area to apprehend the culprits.

Iran

Imam Khomeyni Makes New 'Politico-Divine' Will

LD101203 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution has made a new politico-divine last will, replacing another issued five years ago.

In a ceremony at the presence of the Imam here today, he ordered a copy of his will be handed to the Assembly of Experts and another sent to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.), the eighth imam of the prophet's (SAW) household, in Mashhad, Khorasan Province.

Upon the invitation of Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini (head of the Assembly of Experts), Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Khani (a member of the Assembly), Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi (Secretary of the Council of Guardians), President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili, Prosecutor-General Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Ayatollah Mahdi Karrubi (head of the martyrs Foundation) and some members of the Imam's Bureau, attended his residence at Jamaran Mosque here Thursday morning.

In the meeting, also attended by the Imam's son, Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution after a brief speech delivered two copies of his new will, revised according to the "conditions and needs of the time", to the visitors "to be handed over to the Assembly of Experts and the Razavi Holy Shrine."

Five years ago on this day, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran made his first politico-divine will which was sealed and kept until today.

Later on, all the visitors departed for the Majlis (parliament) building in order to seal the will. The first copy was submitted to Ayatollah Meshkini by the Imam's son and the second sent to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.).

The imam's former will, which had been kept in the Majlis building, was returned to him through Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni.

Speaks on Will; Meshkini Comments

LD101358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] We draw your attention to the full report of this visit [to Imam Khomeyni] and the remarks of Ayatollah Meshkini, the president of the Assembly of Experts.

[Begin Khomeyni recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The main reason I requested you gentlemen to come here was my politico-divine will and testament. One copy must go to the Majlis and the other to Khorasan, to the holy shrine [of Imam Reza, the eighth infallible imam of the Shi'ites]. I ask you gentlemen to please appoint a person or persons to take this to the Majlis and others to take it—one of those [words indistinct] gentlemen—to Mashhad. Appoint one, two, or three persons to take it. [Several unidentified voices are heard speaking about depositing a new copy of the will and withdrawing the old copy. The conversation is confused with a number of people speaking at once] [end recording]

[Begin Meshkini recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God and to his messenger and his scion, and cursed be all the Satans. Today marks the anniversary of the political will and testament of his eminence the imam of the ummah, may God continue his shadow over us.

On this occasion he invited a number of people, who are now in his presence, to his noble house. He made a revision to the will and testament he had drawn up 5 years ago. It is natural that when 5 years pass, a political will and testament undergo some revisions, due to differences in the times, changes in the atmosphere, changes in the political scene.

His revision of it after 5 years is in itself a sign of the greatness of his spirit and his deep political insight; that is, a revision has become necessary after 5 years. We do not know how much he has revised it. In any case, anyone else would have felt it necessary to revise their political will and testament monthly or weekly. At any rate, he has demanded the return of the will and testament which he deposited with the Assembly of Experts 5 years ago, handed over by his honorable son. It was decided that the former will and testament would be returned to him and replaced by the amended will and testament, on which he has written "my politico-divine will and testiment" and duly signed.

There are two copies: One copy will again go to the Assembly of Experts, to remain there; and the other copy must be sent to sacred Mashhad, to remain there.

These honorable brothers and great civil personalities witnessed the ceremonies here in the presence of His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri. He said this will and testament must be deposited in the Majlis, God willing. We hope that, God willing, several other 5-year periods will pass and he will make similar revisions every 5 years and the process will continue until his holiness [referring to the 12th imam, or Hidden Imam, of the Shi'ites] reappears. O God, keep his sacred, his blessed and beneficial presence long among us. It is life which bring blessings to all the world's oppressed and Muslims. O God, make his great Islamic aspirations, which are greater than we can imagine, be implemented in the world of Islam. God make our fighters victorious. O God, return our missing and prisoners of war safely to us. O God, give long life and the opportunity to serve Islam to all the authorities of this country, the brothers here, and other servants of this country. Peace be on Mohammad and his scion. [end recording]

Meets With Montazeri

LD101249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] After his holiness the imam met with state leaders and officials today, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with the imam of the ummah privately and had talks with him about various problems facing the country.

Montazeri Comments on Problem of Bureaucracy

LD091951 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] We begin our news reports with remarks made by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri during a meeting with the plan and budget minister and ministry officials.

Paying tribute to officials for their services and for accepting the heavy burden of responsibility, the deputy leader graciously said: The problem of bureaucracy in state departments, inherited from the previous regime, has not yet been resolved. This problem is wasting people's time and creating inconveniences for them and for officials. It is expected that steps will be taken to effect a change, an administrative revolution, which requires thinking and revolutionary decisionmaking.

His eminence pointed out: The reason for bureaucracy in state departments is lack of trust, fear of fraud, and abuse of the system by corrupt individuals. However, a corrupt individual who intends to commit an offense or plans to flout the rights of another person, for instance,

would do so no matter how strict our regulations are. We should, therefore, through decisionmaking and a revolutionary program, find a solution for this complicated and extensive bureaucracy, in which a person has to contact several centers to collect signatures for a small job. We should take steps to eliminate such problems.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then referred to the need for giving priority to essential requirements of various organizations and administrative departments in the budget, graciously pointing out: Great care should be taken in identifying acute needs and priorities and in introducing budget cuts in some departments in order to prevent adverse effects. There are some necessary tasks that will not be undermined if some portion of their budget is temporarily reduced. However, there are some important areas where the slightest reduction in their budget would lead to undesirable consequences, and enemies and opponents might take advantage of such shortcomings.

Speaking on the need for the expansion of cultural centers and universities, the deputy leader graciously stressed: As far as possible we should expand scientific centers and universities, and we should encourage benevolent individuals to invest in this field so that more people are absorbed by the universities and the number of rejections and failures among university applicants is reduced. At the same time Iranian lecturers, inside and outside the country, should be employed in larger numbers. As for specialist courses, instead of sending students abroad—to those corrupt environments under the influence of their so-called professors—we should invite well-known professors to our country to teach in universities. Such measures, in addition to their economic benefit to the state by saving on foreign currency, would protect the students from the influence of foreign culture. The fact that some people say: Such and such a professor is not a Hezbollahi and should therefore be purged. [sentence as heard] Are the foreign professors in the European countries and America Hezbollahis?

Speaking on the establishment of cultural centers for the followers of the Sunni sect in Iran, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously pointed out: Several years ago I brought this issue to the attention of the imam, may his lofty shadow remain on earth, that we should make arrangements to meet the cultural and scientific needs of the Sunni brothers inside the country. They would not have to go abroad, which would create negative moral and political consequences. Therefore, it was agreed to set up a cultural and educational center in Kordestan under the supervision of the imam's representative in that region. Unfortunately, no real steps have been taken on this issue yet, but I hope that the relevant authorities will pay attention to this problem.

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri spoke of the need to pay more attention to development projects in provinces and towns. He stressed: The gentlemen should make arranagements so that the budget of every province and town is handed over to the provincial officials at the start of each year, a time to attend to the acute need of planning and development projects. They can then make plans in accordance with their budget. When the budget fund is delayed for various reasons, the result is delays in absorbing the budget and, usually, in carrying out projects, which creates dissatisfaction.

Musavi on Regulations for Production Units

LD091526 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] At the end of today's Cabinet session, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi spoke with our correspondent. He made the following remarks about the reply of the imam of the ummah to a question from the labor and social affairs minister on the establishment of obligatory regulations for production and services units which utilize government services:

[Begin Musavi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The question posed by the brothers in the Labor Ministry is a key question, both in relation to the Labor Law and to other laws.

The Cabinet held extensive debates on the Labor Law. Naturally, the government sought methods of presenting its regulations—based on the Islamic Revolution's guidelines—to employers in both the private and public sectors. These regulations had to be implemented for the sake of the survival of the regime. The government wanted our toiling labor class to benefit from opportunities so that it could more easily attain the aspirations the Islamic Revolution set for them.

One of the solutions was based on the previous guidance his holiness the imam had given in response to a question. His solution was that the government offer its services to factory owners under the condition that they observe government regulations.

At one point it was argued that all the regulations enacted by the government could only be implemented at government factories. We solved this issue in this way. Most of the articles included in the draft law as presented return to that principle. That principle was analyzed, then the same question was asked of his holiness the imam. The imam replied that in his opinion the issue is not only very important in relation to this law, but it also has a wide and clear application to other government draft bills, some of which have remained in limbo.

Therefore, it is appropriate for me to mention that over the last several months the government has been favored with several permissions, views, and verdicts by his holiness the imam. I feel that these have provided the government with a vast facility to implement its affairs. I am of the opinion that his views will solve a great number of our legislative issues as well. One is the problem of obtaining a permit for pricing and price

control. Another concerns the problem of hoarding. There is also the problem of the executive powers concerning religious punishment which the imam gave us.

Moreover, there is an addendum of which the people are not yet aware and that has not yet been declared. This concerns the question on municipal regulations. The imam was asked about this. He replied that this is also included in the executive powers. For this reason the Interior Ministry is now preparing a complete set of rules and regulations, to be announced later. Then there is the religious question regarding the problem of the Petroleum Law on which he issued a verdict. The problem is not confined within the limits of that law; rather, it will have a strong impact on all natural resources and all relevant laws. Even in my opinion that view will have on the face of our cities. [sentence as heard] It contains a portion on land ownership and the utilization of mineral and air rights, which places such use in excess of the normal, personal use at the disposal of the Islamic Government. It can solve many of our cities' future difficulties. For instance, in the field of urban planning, we have many problems. These difficulties will be solved in the future with modern cities. Moreover, this recent reply will also free the government's hand in many fields; it will show how the government can serve the dispossessed and the deprived, the public interests, and all the regime's interests. In fact, according to the government's proposals, private interests are expected to serve the public interest and the lofty aspirations of the Islamic Revolution in proportion to the services which the government provides and the opportunities which it places at the disposal of those private interests in accordance with the government regulations in this regard.

When these issues are placed side by side, I believe the third part of his holiness the imam's disavowal message which particularly stresses economic problems. [sentence as heard] Through these verdicts it will be possible to remove the many difficulties impeding the attainment of the lofty ideals which the imam of the ummah has raised for service to the deprived and dispossessed, and for the export of the revolution. I repeat the importance of these recent verdicts, these powers to those who are mainly in the executive area. I also believe this applies to the Majlis. They understand how important they are. I feel its importance is not confined to the present time; rather, it will have long-term benefits, God willing. [end recording]

IRGC Official Views Defense Industry

LD091943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] At the start of the imposed war, the need for the domestic procurement and manufacture of the weapons and equipment needed by the fighters of Islam could be clearly seen. As this war has continued, the international supporters of the Ba'thist regime have created numerous obstacles on the path of the Islamic Republic in obtaining military materiel. Therefore, with the efforts of officials of the IRGC's military, steps were taken to achieve military self-sufficiency. This complex, which is now under the supervision of a deputy minister of the IRGC, started its work with the repair and manufacture of some spare parts. It expanded its activities in 1361 [Iranian year starting on 21 March 1982] with the cooperation of the people and the technicians in the government sector, as well as with the collaboration of various factories. At the moment, the IRGC Ministry's military self-sufficiency industries are busy manufacturing different types of modern and complex radios, medium-range radar, helicopters and different types of drone aircraft, freighters, command ships, and scores of other types of equipment. Brother 'Alizadeh, the deputy IRGC minister in charge of the ministry's self-sufficiency industries, gave an interview to the correspondent of this program, providing us with greater detail. We now will listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] ['Alizadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Regarding the issue of an arms ban on the Islamic Republic, they cannot control their borders as carefully as they claim. Nearly always and whenever we wished, we have been able to acquire and purchase whatever we needed from various sources and to exert our influence in this area. At the moment, I do not think they can limit our purchase of weapons with the measures they plan to take. We are, in fact, making use of this opportunity and mobilizing our people and industries so that we can cut off the roots of dependency as soon as possible. With the establishment of new factories and new lines of military products and by utilizing the public and government sectors, we can make ourselves self-sufficient in military production so that we will no longer need to buy anything from them. In the past few years we have noticed that they actually come to us asking us to buy their weapons.

[Correspondent] As you know, the imposed war is almost unprecedented in the use of complex and modern weapons. What complex and modern weapons have been manufactured by the IRGC in order to confront and neutralize the enemy's weapons and what have been used in the war against the aggressive warmongers?

['Alizadeh] In the telecommunications industries, we are busy manufacturing different types of radios, very modern radios that are lighter, more modern, and have a longer range than similar foreign makes. We have been able to manufacture some mechanisms for the radios that will encode conversations and transmit them so that they cannot be decoded by the enemy. In the missile field, as the esteemed IRGC minister has said, our TOW missiles are on the production line. Our Malyutka missiles soon will be placed on the production line. Our ground-to-ground missiles, with solid and liquid fuels, currently are being designed and in future their parts will be mass produced.

Our radar work is advancing. In the near future, the medium-range radars manufactured by the IRGC Ministry will be utilized, and their testing will begin. In air [break in transmission] at the moment. Since last year, the production lines of our drone aircraft have been working actively on a 24-hour basis. Up until now, we have handed over hundreds of such aircraft to the IRGC Air Force. Recently, as you may have heard, one of our two-man aircraft was successfully tested and had a flight of 13 hours. God willing, next month our second special aircraft, which is a two-pilot aircraft designed and manufactured for combat and reconnaissance work, will start its test flight. In the same connection, the manufacture of helicopters, whether RPV [remote piloted vehicles] helicopters—helicopters that can be guided from a long distance without pilots—as well as different types of piloted helicopters, is being planned. The first type, RPV helicopters, has been in production for the past 3 months. In the field of naval craft, we are currently manufacturing different types of vessels. On the whole, we can say that we are manufacturing all the boats needed by the fronts, which amounts to many thousands every year, in different types and capacities: freighters, speedboats, command ships, combat craft, etc. In the field of the design and manufacture of landing craft, hovercraft, and submarines, our industries are very active. As you know, most of these units have reached the stage of mass production.

In the field of weapons manufacturing, we are manufacturing many different types of mortars. This is something we have been doing for a number of years. At the moment, the IRGC, in addition to providing for its own needs in 60-mm, 81-mm, and 120-mm mortars, with God's help we also are satisfying the needs of the Armed Forces. In the field of RPG-7 manufacturing, we have been mass producing them the past 3-4 years at a great rate. Since last year we also have begun the manufacture of Katyusha and (Nakhudsha) rockets. Only last month during special ceremonies, we handed over a number of these rockets to the fronts. In connction with our ammunition industries, we are producing different types of mortars on a very large scale and have been able to reach the stage of self-sufficiency. In the same field, we also are busy manufacturing artillery shells. We are manufacturing (Nakhudsha) rockets, combat and training rockets, thus satisfying the needs of the fronts.

In the field of special industries, such as the manufacturing of different types of bombs and (Khazgut) and [words indistinct]. We began mass production last year. At the moment we are providing the Air Force with very good service. The models we are designing and manufacturing in this field are unique in their category in the world. There are some very large bombs, weighing a few thousand pounds. In the same section, we are busy manufacturing different types of air rockets and ammunition. Also, a number of long-range rockets are being produced.

In the field of vehicle manufacture, for the past 2 years [break in transmission]. We have reconditioned more than 800 vehicles which were imported from abroad. We completely reconditioned their engines and changed and rebuilt their tracks. At the moment, we are designing and manufacturing a special personnel carrier and a type of very modern tank for the IRGC.

In the field of military facilities, we are designing different types of bridges, floating and fixed bridges, as well as bridges for rapid deployment with the collaboration of domestic factories. We are building different types of observation posts, 70 or 90 meters high; developing different types of trenches; manufacturing different types of sprays, including sprays for chemical purposes; and de-icers. We also are manufacturing military weapons and equipment and engineering tools for the fronts on a very large scale.

In the field of food industries, in collaboration with other relevant sectors, we have started to produce and package food for the fighters of Islam, food of the highest quality, both from a hygenic standpoint, as well as nutrition. In a short time we can send them nutritious and satisfactory food. [end recording]

Spokesman on Volunteer Dispatch Timetable

LD091938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Excerpts] An interview with an IRGC spokesman on the timetable for the volunteer forces is the first news report for this hour:

Afshar, the spokesman of the IRGC, in an interview with a Central News Unit reporter today, said: The timetable for sending in stages the volunteer forces to the fronts, who have displayed their preparedness in the great maneuvers of the Mohammad's Corps—taking note of statistics of those who took part—has been forecast to consist of at least five stages of 3 months' duration each, that is, until the end of next year [ending on 20 March 1989]. As this measure could not be put into practice while the maneuvers were taking place, the timetable for the tours of duty of the volunteer forces to go to the fronts began on 5 December 1987, after the last phase of maneuvers were over.

He said: Some cards were distributed to those taking part in the maneuvers and all of them should go to the resistance bases or the IRGC bases to present their cards and obtain a form on their dispatch timetable.

The IRGC spokesman added: In the great Mohammad Corps maneuver, 6,420,000 persons participated at the provincial level. The figures for forces who staged their maneuvers in other towns and cities should also be added to this number. [passage omitted]

On the question of whether or not the dispatch of government employees and students to the fronts should be compulsory, the IRGC spokesman replied: Generally, the importance of volunteer and mobilization forces in

war is a clear enough issue and we shall never alter our programs. The power that today has broken the back of the enemy and of global arrogance is the same volunteer and self-sacrificing spirit of the fighters. Of course, we are pursuing the National Conscription Laws in a serious manner. We do not want to have a situation whereby a group of people offer their lives, possessions, everything for the sake of preserving Islam and the Islamic homeland and of defending our nation, while another group of people think solely of their well-being and comfort and refuse to have anything to do with the war.

The performance of National Service is the duty of all, and those who are under conscription must perform their national service. Some restrictions in the law have been forecast for those who dodge the service which security forces and other foundations are dutybound to carry out.

The IRGC spokesman also stressed: Regarding government employees, it is not a question of their being forced to go to the frontlines. What is at stake is that there is a percentage ceiling [as heard] and those in charge of departments and industries are dutybound to fulfill this ceiling with the dispatch of volunteer forces from their own areas of responsibility. Of course, behind the operational lines and in towns near the war and coastal provinces, specialist forces in government departments and industries will be used as inspectors, and extra-duty pay will also be paid by the relevant unit. [passage omitted]

The IRGC spokesman called on the youth and committed persons to register their names for membership in the IRGC by going to IRGC bases all over the country in order to work for the headquarters cadres of operational units and training centers and also the command cadres (?at the level) of companies, battalions, and other specialized ranks. [passage omitted]

Velayati, Delegation Depart for Pakistan

NC100610 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left for Islamabad this morning. He will pay a 3-day official visit to Pakistan at the head of a high-ranking political, cultural, and economic delegation.

Pre-Departure Remarks

LD100835 Tehran IRNA in English 0759 GMT
10 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left here for Islamabad Thursday morning for talks on bilateral economic and political relations, and regional cooperation.

Speaking to IRNA before departure Velayati said he will also discuss with Pakistani officials ways of coordinating the two countries stances in international forums.

On Iran-Pakistan economic relations he said volume of trade exchanges increased by 100 percent this year compared to last year. Velayati expressed hope that bilateral ties will be further expanded.

Asked whether the Afghan issue will also be raised with Pakistani officials, Velayati said it is an issue of mutual concern.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati added, believes that the Afghan people must decide their own destiny. Therefore, he stressed Iran rejects any plan which does not consider the Afghans and the mujahidin as the main parties involved in deciding the future system of Afghanistan.

Draft Cooperation Agreement Signed With FRG

NC100816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The director general of the FRG Ministry of Economics, who is in Tehran, met with our minister of economy and finance yesterday. During the meeting Mr Mohammad Javad Iravani, minister of economy and finance, described the Islamic Republic's policy toward political and economic (?arrogance) and on the expansion of relations with countries that do not have covetous intentions against our country. He also referred to the extensive economic relations and considerable trade between the two countries, as well as to the FRG's logical policy on recognizing Iraq as the instigator of the war. He stated: The adoption of such realistic policies in international forums opens clear vistas for the expansion of cooperation. The upcoming session of the joint committee of the two countries' economy ministers will meet (?with this in view). Our minister of economic affairs and finance also called for more purchases of non-oil and oil products from Iran in order to overcome the existing trade imbalance between the two countries.

During this meeting, the director general of the FRG Ministry of Economics referred to the existing atmosphere of understanding in bilateral relations and said: In the opinion of German economic officials, the expansion of industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries can bring about diversification of the FRG's imports from Iran.

According to a Central News Unit report, a draft memorandum of understanding on the expansion of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the FRG was signed yesterday.

Commentary Skeptical of Summit Talks on Gulf

LD092114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1240 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Unattributed commentary from the program of "Messages From the Front"]

[Text] Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, has said that Ronald Reagan, in his meeting with Gorbachev, will stress the need for

ending the Iran-Iraq war. In this connection, what can be regarded as important is not merely the question of raising the issue of the imposed war in the summit meeting, but U.S. or Soviet efforts to find pressure points to force Iran to accept the decisions reached at the summit meeting, pressure points that do not exist at all.

The leaders of Washington and Moscow can spend hours discussing and studying the issue of the imposed war. They may even reach agreement on certain issues. However, none of these are important, because such efforts start and end with words. Reagan and Gorbachev may be able to reach joint decisions on many bilateral or even world issues, However, undoubtedly they will not be able to strike a bargain over the strategic region of the Persian Gulf, because in this part of the world there is a powerful and revolutionary country, Islamic Iran. In the 7 years of an imposed war, this country has clearly demonstrated to the world that it will not be affected by any pressure by world arrogance on the course of the implementation of its policies in the region or in achieving its principled goals. The nature of the Islamic Revolution is basically such that all pressures that are effective in the world of politics lose their effectiveness when confronted with the Islamic Revolution. It is in recognition of this fact that Oman's foreign minister said in an interview with AL-MUSTAQBAL that all the existing pressures in the hands of the Arab countries, especially the Persian Gulf littoral states, are utterly negligible, and that those countries lack any means to force Iran to accept a cease-fire in its war with Iraq.

However, it seems that the Americans have still not given up their attempts to impose a peace and to end the Iran-Iraq war without any definitive result. The fact that the Iran-Iraq war is being raised at the summit meeting and that Soviet backing is being sought in the arms embargo on Iran clearly proves this point. However, the truth is that the United States is trying to end a war that we did not start. Washington and Moscow also clearly know who started the war and the aggression. Nevertheless, neither of the two sides is prepared to spell out this point clearly. By closing their eyes to the facts, they are trying to put an end to the imposed war by any means possible, and they raise the issue of achieving peace and security as their main motive.

The question should now be asked: At this sensitive point in the war, when the Ba'thist Iraqi regime is incapable of confronting the Islamic fighters and their successive offensives and is resorting to any means to halt its ill-fated aggression against the Islamic Republic through the imposition of a temporary cease-fire, can these vain efforts be considered a proper way of putting an end to the imposed war?

Tehran Condemns Saudi, Iraqi Oil Policies

NC092133 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The 82d conference of the OPEC oil ministers is being held amid speculation that oil prices will remain at their present level. The Islamic Republic has submitted a proposal calling for prices to be increased from $18 to $20 per barrel in order to confront the decrease in oil revenues as a result of the declining value of the dollar. However, the reactionary bloc associated with the arrogant circles has rejected this proposal, insisting instead on maintaining the current prices and disregarding the rights of the peoples of the oil-producing countries. The problem which has been confronting OPEC since its inception has been the influence of the consumer industrial countries, particularly the United States, inside the organization through the reactionary regimes linked to them. These regimes have enabled the arrogant forces to manipulate the fate of the oil-producing countries.

It is not surprising that there are parties within the organization which prefer the interests of the arrogant powers to the interests of their own peoples. This has been apparent in the stands of the Saudi regime, which has rendered the best services to the arrogant capitalist powers. During the Islamic Revolution, and when the export of Iranian oil to international markets was halted, that regime took the initiative in the oil field and doubled its production to over 10 million barrels per day. With this increase, Saudi Arabia managed to overwhelm the oil market with a large oil surplus. Consequently, the reserves of the consuming countries rose, thus enabling these countries to manipulate oil prices. The second stage of the Saudi-arrogant powers plan began in 1983. The efforts at this stage sought to lower prices to around $10 per barrel from the original level of $45.

Through this plan, Saudi Arabia gave the arrogant countries its best services. Those countries were suffering from numerous economic problems. However, the Saudi regime's suspect oil policy enabled them to resolve all these problems. The recent Saudi stand rejecting a $2 per barrel increase is a long-standing and defunct one. It gives priority to the interests of the arrogant powers rather than to the general interests of the peoples of the oil- producing countries. In this policy, the Saudi regime is supported by the Saddamist regime, which also has rejected all attempts to effect price increases, despite its desperate need for money to finance its aggressive machine against the Islamic Republic. Despite this need, the Iraqi regime has not been able to depart from the framework of the arrogant powers' plan to decrease prices. Furthermore, that regime has increased its oil production output to more than 2 million barrels per day, effectively violating the OPEC resolutions not to raise production levels and exceeding its quota, which OPEC had approved at previous meetings. At the current conference, the Saddamist regime is demanding an increase in OPEC production. This call follows the Saudi regime's position calling for fixing oil prices.

With these two calls, the arrogant powers' plan to acquire the greatest possible amount of oil at the lowest price is being realized. The other primary objective which the arrogant countries are seeking to achieve is to deprive

the oil-producing countries of their will and to enable oil companies to manipulate oil prices according to their wishes at a time when the exporting countries have no power to change the prices.

In order to confront these goals, it is necessary to establish an economic alliance among the oil-exporting countries that care about their oil resources. The unity of these countries and the unity of their stands are the only means whereby this conspiracy of the arrogant powers can be confronted.

Khamene'i Comments on Food Self-Sufficiency

LD092215 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said today that Iran can produce foodstuff for more than twice the size of its present population if underground water resources are exploited and surface waters are properly preserved, in addition to expansion of agricultural research.

In a meeting with model farmers and stock breeders here, the president stressed that the economic policy of the country, at least for the next decade or two, centers on promotion of agriculture.

If agriculture becomes a pivot for Iran's economic policy, all foodstuff needed inside the country can be supplied and its foreign exchanges spent on other needs, Khamene'i said.

Elsewhere, the president referred to the dauntless resistance of the Iranian nation and said Iran scoffs at U.S. bullying, in contrast of heads of many world countries who turn pale by a simple warning note from a U.S. Embassy in their countries. "Regional states even change their policy as a result of U.S. pressures," he added.

The president, who also heads the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), also detailed the U.S. defeat in Vietnam and said Washington is now bragging in the Persian Gulf. "And more stupid than the U.S. are the regional reactionaries like the Kuwaiti and Hijazi [Saudi Arabian] rulers who are tied to it," the president concluded.

Chief Justice on Agricultural Self-Sufficiency

LD091057 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA—Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali accompanied by a group of model farmers met Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili here Tuesday.

Zali briefed Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili on the status of Iran's agriculture and lauded efforts of Iranian farmers. Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili encouraged the farmers to produce more, and said that only once Iran has produced sufficient agricultural products for consumption at home, can it claim to be relying on its own and independent of other countries.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Kurds Destroy Power Lines

LD100950 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Muslim combatants and Peshmergas of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party in a series of guerrilla operations in the past few days destroyed several high pressure electricity mast in Alahiya [place name as received] region and heights overlooking Al-Sulaymaniyah killing at least ten Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

Kurdish Peshmergas of Irbil branch, in a recent operation in Kirkuk killed commander of an Iraqi Army company in Qarnateh [placename as received], northern Iraq.

Iraqi Warplanes Bomb Khuzestan

LD101549 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated the air space of Khuzestan at 14:15 hours local time (10:45 GMT) Thursday, bombing a civilian area in that southwestern province.

Two Iranian civilians were injured in the course of the savage Iraqi bombardment.

Yesterday, eight civilians were martyred and wounded during Iraqi bombing of a village in the suburbs of the northwestern border town of Piranshahr, in West Azarbayjan Province.

Pakistan

Iran's Velayati Arrives for 3-Day Visit

BK100635 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has said that he will exchange views with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, on regional and international issues, in addition to bilateral matters during his stay in Pakistan.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival at Islamabad airport this morning on a 3-day visit to Pakistan, he said that he will also meet with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. The Iranian foreign minister said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran have been strengthened during the

past few years which is in the interest of regional peace and stability. He expressed confidence that a positive outcome will emerge from the talks between Iranian and Pakistani delegations.

Ends 1st Round of Talks

LD100846 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 10 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 10, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, heading a political and cultural delegation, arrived here Thursday for talks with Pakistani officials on major international issues, Afghanistan crisis and bilateral ties. Upon his arrival here Velayati said that he is carrying messages of President 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to their Pakistani counterparts. Political observers attach important to Velayati's visit to Islamabad which is taking place immediately after the visits of Pakistani officials to Hijaz (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait and United Arab Emirates.

Velayati ended its first round of talks with Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs and left here for Lahore to take part in a medical conference. He will later return to Islamabad for talks with Pakistani leaders.

Junejo Comments on Mideast Visits, DRA

BK091703 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has described his visits to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait as very successful and fruitful. He was addressing a news conference at Islamabad airport this evening on his return home from his visits to these countries. He said he held detailed discussions with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Kuwait on bilateral matters, as well as regional and international issues. There was unanimity of views on the issues.

The prime minister said all the three countries he visited had reaffirmed their continued support to Pakistan for an early settlement of the Afghanistan issue. He again expressed optimism that the next year will prove decisive for a settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

Replying to a question about stationing of a UN peacekeeping force in Afghanistan to control the situation after withdrawal of foreign forces, the prime minister said this could be thrashed out only after the question of timeframe has been resolved. He said the question of (?forming) a government in Afghanistan after the withdrawal was a matter to be settled by the Afghan people themselves.

The prime minister said Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait were also in full agreement with Pakistan that the Gulf war was the worst tragedy confronting the ummah [community] at the moment and as such it should be resolved at the earliest.

Briefing newsmen abroad the plane while returning home from Kuwait, the prime minister said he has proposed to the Arab leaders that in case the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting [words indistinct] a decision regarding the Afghanistan problem and the Gulf war, the Islamic Conference Organization countries be convened to discuss the issue as a considered follow-up action.

The prime minister said there is tremendous love and respect for Pakistan in these countries. He also termed overseas Pakistanis very happy over the economic measures the government was taking for speedy development as well as on the progress on the democratic front.

Sind Separatist Leader Detained in Larkana

BK091648 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] A press note issued by the Sind government in Karachi today says G.M. Syed has been taken into custody for 30 days on the orders of the district magistrate of Larkana under the Provincial Order on Maintenance of Law and Order-1960.

The press note further says that to remove every kind of misunderstanding, the government reiterates its determination that the democratic process will be stabilized and all civilian rights, including freedom of speech, will be encouraged. Along with this, the government will never give permission to any individual, group, or party to work against Pakistan's security, stability, and solidarity taking undue advantage of peace and civilian rights. Similarly the government will not allow any individual or group to threaten and intimidate them and prevent them from exercising their civilian rights in a free and fair manner.

The press note finally says that no citizen should give credit to the tactics of spreading fear and anxiety because the government is fully prepared to save the life and property and honor of every citizen and it has taken steps for this objective.

AFP Details Arrest

BK091322 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] Karachi, Dec 9 (AFP)—Eighty-year-old Sindhi separatist leader G.M. Syed was arrested in a pre-dawn police swoop Wednesday in Larkana, 300 miles (480 kilometres) north of here, sources close to his family said. Mr. Syed heads the Jeya Sind movement, which is allegedly pushing for the creation of an independent "Sindhu Desh" homeland in southern Sind Province. He had been touring the rural region this week to mobilise public support for his separatist cause, press reports said.

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Syed, better known as G.M. Syed, was held under house arrest during nine years of martial law from 1977 to 1986. He was set free by the civilian government of the Pakistan Muslim League earlier this year.

Police sources said Mr. Syed had been detained under the maintenance of public order ordinance. He was picked up at the house of another nationalist Sindhi leader, Mumtaz Bhutto, the sources said. Police said he had been charged with violating a local ban on public gatherings and making anti-government speeches. Mr. Syed's grandson, Dr. Zia Syed, another co-worker Hafeez Qureshi and two servants were also arrested and were being held in Larkana central prison, police said.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Fighting Between IPKF, LTTE

Arms Factory Captured

BK081357 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Reports from there [Jaffna] say that the Indian Peacekeeping Forces [IPKF] have captured the LTTE arms factory in Jaffna [words indistinct]. The Indian forces have seized a large quantity of mortar shells and (?tubes) from this arms factory. A LTTE terrorist who resisted arrest at another place in Jaffna was shot dead by the IPKF.

Naval Actions Detailed

BK081557 Hong Kong AFP in English 1532 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 8 (AFP)—Indian gunships have sunk or captured 50 boats ferrying Tamil rebels and have maintained a blockade of Sri Lanka waters since New Delhi's military offensive began, a naval spokesman here said Tuesday.

The Indian Navy has intercepted the boats carying Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatists since October 9—the day before India activated a military operation codnamed "Pawan" to disarm the dominant Tigers, he added.

The spokesman said the Indian Navy and the island's gunboats were conducting joint patrols off Sri Lanka's north and eastern coasts and that the blockade was having a "telling effect" on the rebels.

Five Indian frigates cum destroyers and a dozen assault vessels joined Sri Lanka's smallers boats to halt LTTE traffic in the Bay of Bengal, which separates the two neighbours.

Indian ships were shelling LTTE bases at night to help 30,000 Indian infantry soldiers still battling some 2,000 Tamil rebels in the Eastern and Northern Provinces, the spokesman said. The ships were also using star shells to illuminate LTTE targets, he said.

The Navy, which has pushed in aircraft and coastguard ships for surveillance of 450 kilometres (280 miles) of sea, has also deployed helicopter-borne commandos on the eastern coast to tackle inland and off-shore LTTE targets, he added.

A number of Indian vessels were berthing at Sri Lanka's Trincomalee natural harbour as a back-up to Indian soldiers in the Eastern Province, he said.

More than 1,100 LTTE rebels have died in the military operations launched after India and Sri Lanka signed the July 29 peace pact to end separatism in Sri Lanka. Indian casualties have crossed the 300-mark.

LTTE 'Must Surrender'

BK091040 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 9 (AFP)—Indian troops will "pay any price" to force Sri Lanka's Tamil guerrillas to lay down arms, Indian Army Chief General Krishnaswami Sundarji said Wednesday.

The Indian peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka, estimated to number 30,000 troops, will not be withdrawn until the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have been persuaded or forced to lay down arms and adopt an Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord, Gen. Sundarji said.

The peacekeeping force would "pay any price" to achieve its objective, but would not stay any longer than necessary, he told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency in Jaipur, nearly 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the capital.

More than 300 Indian soldiers and 1,100 guerrillas have died so far, according to New Delhi, since India launched an offensive against the LTTE on October 10.

Indian troops had gone to Sri Lanka in the national interests of both countries, Gen. Sundarji said, and failure to fulfill their mission would "demoralise the army and make it lose credibility in the eyes of the world."

The ultimate solution to the Tamil separatist struggle, which the July 29 peace accord sought to end, would have to be political, the general said.

In Colombo, Indian officials echoed the general's message and discounted local reports of a fresh peace initiative to end the fighting.

"We are in total control of the situation. There is no question of going back. The LTTE must surrender first for us to even consider giving them another chance," an Indian High Commission (embassy) spokesman said.

The remarks came a day after the Indian high commissioner (ambassador) here, Jyotindra Nath Dixit, returned from New Delhi after consultations with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Defence Minister K.C. Pant.

A 48-hour ceasefire declared by New Delhi three weeks ago to ease an arms surrender by the LTTE ended without results. India has accused the rebels of using the truce to regroup and step up attacks on Indian soldiers.

The spokesman, denying Colombo press reports of another truce, said New Delhi had no peace package to offer the LTTE until it accepted the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

However, an amnesty was still open to LTTE cadres who surrender with their weapons. The offer has not been extended to LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and his district leaders.

Some 30,000 to 35,000 Indian soldiers are still fighting an estimated 2,000 guerrillas in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces. The fighting has also displaced more than 500,000 civilians.

LTTE Attacks PLOTE Camp

BK091134 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] A major battle between two rival gangs of terrorists has been reported from Mannar. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that 150 LTTE terrorists had attacked the main PLOTE camp at Murunkan in the Mannar District. In the ensuing battle, rifles, machine-guns, and rocket-propelled grenades [were used]. Two PLOTE terrorists were killed. Official sources said that (Selvan), the Mannar leader of the PLOTE, and another identified as (Neelasan) were killed in the attack.

A gang of about 40 LTTE men had attacked the camp from the direction of (Nanaden), while a gang of about 120 had moved from the direction of Uriyan Kulam. This is the second attack on a rival camp by the LTTE after a lull of several months. The first attack took place on Saturday [5 December] morning when the Tigers attacked an Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front [ENDLF] camp in Mankulam killing five of its members. The ENDLF is the umbrella organization of the PLOTE, TELO, and EPRLF groups.

LTTE Losses Estimated

BK091332 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 9 Dec 87

[Text] About 970 well-trained LTTE men were killed and 387 captured since the Indian Peacekeeping Force launched military operations to disarm the terrorists from 10 October onwards. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that most of those suspected to be LTTE terrorists were released after interrogation. Reports from detective sources say that the LTTE have lost the capacity to fight firmly in place and have now undertaken a strategy of attacking and fleeing. Meanwhile, three LTTE men and two Indian Peacekeeping Force soldiers were killed in clashes in two places in Konduvil in Jaffna yesterday.

LTTE Logistics Depots Hit

BK101107 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0950 GMT 10 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) yesterday captured a large quantity of ammunition and explosives during a series of raids in Jaffna on LTTE logistics bases. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that Indian troops seized 10,400 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 200 mortar bombs, two self-loading and four AK-47 rifles.

A report from Samanthurai in the Eastern Province District, states that a gang of terrorists raided the home yesterday of Mohamed Sherif, robbed cash and jewelery and shot him dead. Another report from Batticaloa states that an Indian soldier was killed by terrorists at Akkaraipattu and his sub-machine gun robbed.

Minister on IPKF Commander's Statement

BK100927 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0856 GMT 10 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Sri Lankan minister of parliamentary affairs, Vincent Perera, made a statement in Parliament this morning on behalf of the prime minister, in response to a question raised by the leader of the opposition, Anura Bandaranaike, in the house on Tuesday. Mr Bandaranaike had referred to a statement made by the commander of the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF]. Minister Vincent Perera said that inquiries were made from the Indian Government about the announcement made by Major General Harkirat Singh which was reported in the newspapers.

It has been found that only portions of his statement had been carried in local newspapers out of context. Mr Perera said that according to the Indian Government what was published did not do justice to the opinions expressed by the Indian commander.

The IPKF is in Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lanka Government and their activities are governed by the executive powers of the president who is commander-in-chief. The minister said that the Peace Keeping Force will leave Sri Lanka when asked to do so by the president. This fact has been stressed in several statements made by the Indian prime minister.

He observed that there is no need to pay undue attention to the statement by the major general which does not constitute an official statement.

The minister pointed out that provisions governing the re-settlement of displaced persons from Sinhala, Muslim and Tamil communities had been included in the peace accord.

The government is conducting investigations into the recent incident in the Valanchchenai assistant government agent's division and the minister added that the government will take steps to restore normalcy to the area.

Tamil Separatists Call for Peace, Amnesty

BK081630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] has urged the LTTE to join the mainstream for peace, democracy, unity, and social progress in Sri Lanka. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, it said the LTTE should subordinate its narrow parochial ends to the wider and long-term interests of the Tamil people. The statement signed by the EPRLF Secretary General, Mr K. Padmanabha, has also urged the Government of India to initiate the political process and not to allow provocative acts by the LTTE to distract it from implementing the agreement. Among other things, the statement also demanded that general amnesty be extended to all political prisoners without any distinction on the basic of ethnicity or region. It said negotiations be started on the devolution [of powers] package in accordance with the terms and spirit of the accord to create an atmosphere for elections to the provincial councils.

Meanwhile, the Peacekeeping Force is providing protection to all the examination centers where high school examinations are being held in the eastern provinces and all areas south of the Elephant Pass. No untoward incident has been reported.

Responding to queries by newsmen on the situation in Sri Lanka, an official spokesman said the first train from Mankulam to Kilinochchi was run yesterday. Regular trains between Colombo-Kilinochchi, and Trincomalee-Kilinochchi will start plying soon. The spokesman said work on the railway line between Kilinochchi and Jaffna is going on. A number of buses and civilian trucks carrying essential commodities continue to move in and out of the Jaffna Peninsula.

In the Rajya Sabha, several opposition members today demanded a statement from the government during the current session itself on the latest situation in Sri Lanka and the steps the government contemplates to resolve it. The matter came up through a special mention and members said the government must inform them when the role of the Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka is likely to end.

Policeman Killed in Attack by 'Subversives'

BK101113 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0953 GMT 10 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—A police constable guarding the home of an inspector attached to the Galle Police in southern Sri Lanka was killed by subversives last night. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that Reserve Police Constable Guneratne along with another policeman were guarding the house of Inspector Attanayake at Wakwella, Galle when at 2100 hours (local time) yesterday they were attacked by subversives. Constable Guneratne was shot at with an automatic weapon. He later succumbed to his injuries after he had a leg amputated.

A report from Polonnaruwa, north central Sri Lanka states that K G Piyaratne of Jayanthipura was shot dead by subversives. A placard placed on his body stated that he had been killed by the "Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya."

Another report from Mathurata in the central hill country states that T B Yatiwala of Ampitigama was shot at and injured allegedly by subversives yesterday. He was a candidate for the forthcoming Gramodaya and Pradeshiya Sabha elections.

Four Policemen Wounded by LTTE Land Mine

BK101127 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0956 GMT 10 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—Four policemen were wounded this morning by a LTTE terrorist landmine at Samanthurai in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province and the jeep in which they were travelling badly damaged. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that a sub-inspector, sergeant and two police constables riding in a police jeep had run into a landmine at 0715 hours (local time) today at Walathapitiya in Samanthurai.

Terrorists shot dead a man at Vavuniya last Tuesday [8 December]. His bullet riddled body was found at Urumankal.